

# Little Red Shoes

Loretta Lynn

I was 11 months old  
I was just starting to walk  
And Daddy always kept a big stick behind the door just in case  
Somebody was to come in that was drunk on moonshine,  
You know, and Daddy had to do something about it  
Anyway, this woman, we called her old Aunt Boyd,  
She come in and she was telling  
Mommy about her, uh, husband, she thinks is going out with this woman in  
Paintsville  
So she reared back with that big stick showing  
Mommy how she was going to hit this woman in the head with it  
And when she went back with it, she hit me in the head  
And Mommy said I cried for 5 days  
And she said I, that fifth night,  
I had a great big knot that show up right in the middle of my forehead  
And, you know, the only thing I remember,  
I don't remember no pain, but I just remember Mommy  
And Daddy carrying me in this old quilt that Mommy had made out of overalls  
The knots kept getting bigger and bigger so she took me to the doctor  
And that stuff called mesitor, something like that  
Mommy said it made both ears flat to my face and I ain't got very big ears  
And told Mommy that I would, that I was going to die  
And that happened like four times so I didn't walk till I was almost 5  
It was... It was kind of a mess...

Oh I forgot about the shoes,  
Well shoot, I hadn't... I'd never had a pair of shoes  
And Mommy had went...  
Took me to the hospital, you know, to see what that was...  
If they couldn't do something  
But they wouldn't keep me because Mommy and Daddy didn't have no money  
They just tell 'em to take me home and let me die, you know,  
Because there wasn't nothing they could do about  
That kind of disease, I guess  
And, um, Mommy told Daddy,  
Says "Ted, you take her down the street, you carry her down the street..." a  
nd said,  
"...let me try this store here," and Mommy went in and told them the story t  
hat I was dying,  
That she had to carry me twelve miles to town  
And twelve miles back and that I had no shoes  
That place, I think it was Murphy's 5 and 10 and they're still there in Pain  
tsville, Kentucky  
And I think that they told Mommy that they wasn't in business to give shoes  
away  
Mommy told Daddy, says, "Carry Loretta on down a little farther,"  
Said, "and let me stop in another store..."  
And Mommy went right back to the same store  
When the guy's back was turned she stole these little red shoes  
And I remember on the big'old bridge that went across the river  
It went way up high and was...  
I've always been scared of that bridge that took me across the big Sandy Riv  
er  
Mommy pulled them out from under that yellow jacket that she was wearing  
And she was putting them red shoes on me  
And I thought them was the prettiest things I ever saw in my life  
And Daddy started crying

And I wondered why  
And he said, "Clerie, we're not going to make it home,"  
And Mommy put the shoes on me  
And Daddy took off running and run all the way ahead t'Butcher Holler with m  
e  
And Mommy never had a chance to carry me any farther  
And that's almost twelve miles that Daddy run with me  
But Daddy knew that the cops was going to get us  
He left Mommy standing and he took off in a dead run  
I remember him running but I didn't know what for

And I remember asking Mommy,  
"Mommy, why is Daddy running?"  
I remember her hollering,  
"To put your little red shoes away, honey, when you get home."

Can you believe that?  
So I wrote a song called "Put My Little Red Shoes Away,"  
You know, they're my little red shoes and I don't want  
'em to get... to be dirty...