



# Lucinda Williams – *The Ghosts of Highway 20*

## Lyrics

### Dust

There's a sadness so deep the sun seems black  
And you don't have to try to keep the tears back  
Well you don't have to try to keep the tears back

Cause you couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to

Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust

So you stare at the ceiling and wish the world would mend  
Trying to recall some better feeling to no good end  
Trying to recall some better feeling to no good

But even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust

There's a sadness so deep the sun seems black  
And you don't have to try to keep the tears back  
Well you don't have to try to keep the tears back

Because you couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to  
You couldn't cry if you wanted to

Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust

Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust  
Even your thoughts are dust

## House of Earth

Come to my house of earth if you would like for me to gather old time feelings back  
Come here to my house of good, rich earth if you would like for me to teach your wife a  
thing or two

Come here to this illegal place with joys and teach your wife this way to grow new boys  
I'll take you by your hand and show you pearls of these same feelings that grow pretty girls

I'll wash your feet a couple of times a day 'til all your old time sorrow melts away  
You'll leave some drops of honey on my couch I'll leave a couple dollars in your pouch

My house of earth is the richest land in town  
I pity those dead ones that at me frown  
So come to my house of earth and learn its worth  
A few green folded bills to learn of earth

I kiss you in such odd and natural ways, your wife will then find out that kissing pays  
Two times a day I wash you in my tub, ten times a day I'll pet your skin and rub

Call me a prostitute and a whore too, I do these tricks your wife refuses to  
I swear by all my bibles you won't regret, I've never seen a man who's sorry yet

I'll love you once to teach you all your life the things to do when you are with your wife  
Your wife should be quite glad and proud of me for waking both of these things you see

My house of earth runs down with wine around  
Lots of different ways here that you can come  
And if you do come, I will be glad to see you  
And if you don't come, I'm glad you don't need me

I've finished red, hot kisses, I know that wakes sleepy sickness in your soul

## I Know All About It

You've been living on the jazz side of life  
Carrying your pain in your back pocket and a sharp edge knife  
And somebody told me there's a man you've been seeing  
But I know he ain't your lover and I know he ain't your friend

And I can tell by the way you look  
You ain't been treating yourself right girl, yeah you been whooped  
And if I could I would come to your side  
But I know you wouldn't want me to, it would only hurt your pride

Why do you act like you don't know me at all  
Why do you, why do you turn your face to the wall  
Girl don't try to run away like that  
I know about the pain and all of that jazz

You lean against the bar with that look on your face  
The leather's worn on your boots and your blouse is tattered lace  
You pawn your guitar and you bus it again  
Your Chevy's broken down and you're looking for a ride with him

You lie in your bed and stare at the plaster peeling and  
Wonder where your spirit went and that wild abandoned feeling  
Something you always knew about, something you almost forgot  
Hidden in a place somewhere deep down in your heart

Why do you act like you don't know me at all  
Why do you, why do you turn your face to the wall  
Girl don't try to run away like that  
I know about the pain and all of that jazz  
I know about the pain and all of that jazz

I know all about it  
I know all about it, girl  
I know all about it  
I know all about it, girl

I know all about it  
I know all about it, girl  
I know all about it  
I know all about it

## **Place in My Heart**

There's a place in my heart, I got room to spare  
There's a place in my heart, I'll make room for you there  
Even though you make me blue, I got room enough for you  
No matter what you do I want you to know that  
You have a place in my heart

You'll always have somewhere to call home  
No matter the circumstances  
Wherever you are, you're never alone  
So don't laugh and say what are the chances

Will you be welcome and will I let you in  
When the sky's raining and thundering  
As sure as winter turns to spring  
You're asking if in stead of wondering

There's a place in my heart, do I have room to spare  
Yeah, there's a place in my heart, I'll make room for you there  
Even though you make me blue, I got room enough for you  
No matter what you do I, I want you to know that  
You have a place in my heart

You, I know you take my love for granted  
I'm pretty strong when I admit it  
You might be surprised at what I can manage  
So don't you ever forget

There's a place in my heart , I got room to spare  
There's a place in my heart, I'll make room for you there  
Even though you make me blue, I got room enough for you  
No matter what you do I, I want you to know that  
You have a place in my heart

## **Death Came**

I was called to the rowing banks by the water to bathe in the river of truth  
The river tried to pull me under and refused to turn me loose  
I was called to read from the bible of life, I read from beginning to end  
Every page and every line, still I could not comprehend

Death came, death came  
And gave you his kiss  
Death came, death came  
And took you away from this  
Oh I miss you so and I long to know  
Why death gave you his kiss

A tasted the fruit from the tree of knowledge and I ate from dawn 'til dark  
I was sated... not satisfied, until I carved my name in the bark  
I was called to drink and was seduced by the sweetest, ripest berry  
I quenched my thirst with the red juice still I fond no sanctuary

Death came, death came  
And gave you his kiss  
Death came, death came  
And took you away from this  
Oh I miss you so and I long to know  
Why death gave you his kiss

Death came, death came  
And gave you his kiss  
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And took you away from this  
Oh I miss you so and I long to know  
Why death gave you his kiss

I miss you so and I long to know  
Why death gave you his kiss

## **Doors of Heaven**

Open up the doors of heaven, let me in  
I think I'm finally tired of living, let me in  
I'm gonna walk in the glory and tell everyone my story  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in

I try to live my life in a righteous way  
I try to do my best from day to day  
But no matter how hard I try, it seems all I do it cry  
So open up the doors of heaven let me in

Someone told me there's a better place than this  
Where I can go and see my mother's kiss  
A place so full of love, somewhere up above  
So open up the doors of heaven, let me in

I hear them say that this life is a gift  
That it's as precious as a baby's breath  
Well they can talk to a door when my time has come  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in

Open up the doors of heaven, let me in  
I think I'm finally tired of living, let me in  
I'm gonna walk in the glory and tell everyone my story  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in

Open up the doors of heaven, let me in  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in  
Open up the doors of heaven, let me in

# Louisiana Story

In deep south  
When I was growing up  
Looking back on sweetness  
Looking back on the rough

The sun going down  
Crickets at night  
Amour sounds  
And mosquito bites

Swatting at a fly  
Hearing the neighbors talk  
It's so hot you could fry  
An egg on the sidewalk

Outside playing  
Barefoot in the street  
Tar will be sticking  
To the bottom of my feet

Running and chasing after  
The ice cream wagon  
Mama, can I have a quarter  
So I can get me one

On a good day, Mama'd make us  
Sweet coffee milk  
On bad day's she'd cuss  
When something got spilled

Her daddy taught the Bible  
Lake Charles to Monroe  
Shreveport to Slydell  
Batton Rouge to Tibadeux

He'd chew tobacco  
Spit it out in a can  
All the while hollering  
Don't let the screen door slam

Her daddy's kind  
Didn't spare the rod  
Blinded by the fear  
And the wrath of the Lord

He'd call us sinners  
Say you're going to hell  
Now finish your dinner  
And tell 'em you fell

And when the blood came  
Mama told her  
She was unclean  
And her mama would scold her

Mama always felt  
Christian guilt  
And then put to bed  
Under a homemade quilt

God knows it rains  
In Louisiana  
But not enough to wash away  
Sins of the father

God knows Mama  
Loved her daughter  
And they say that blood  
Is thicker than water

Out in deep south  
When I was growing up  
Looking back on the sweetness  
Looking back on the rough

## The Ghosts of Highway 20

I know this road like the back of my hand  
Same with the stations, only FM band  
Farms and truck stops, firework stands  
I know this road like the back of my hand

Southern secrets still buried deep  
Rooting and restless 'neath the cracked  
concrete  
If you where from here, you would fear  
me  
To the death along with the ghost of  
highway 20

I went through hell when I was younger  
Deep in the well you'll see the hunger  
To Find the strength I got within me  
To wrestle with the ghost of highway 20

Been sixty years, I don't want for nothing  
But my tears, they keep on coming  
And my fears continue to haunt me  
along with the ghost of highway 20

I know this road like the back of my hand  
Same with the stations, only FM band  
Farms and truck stops and firework  
stands  
I know this road like the back of my hand

No doubt about it a Mexican  
To ...the ghost of highway 20

Run down motels, faded billboards  
Used cars for sale, the rusty junkyards  
This two lane blacktop will never let me  
Let go of the ghost along highway 20

And I have seen the signs that say  
We're closing in on the final days  
But I got nothing to repent  
The saving grace is worth the ghost of  
highway 20

I know this road like the back of my hand  
Same with the stations, only FM band  
Farms and truck stops and firework  
stands  
Yeah I know this road like the back of my  
hand

Every question and every breath  
Every exit leaves a little death  
In this way a memory  
That will wander with the ghost of  
highway 20

Yeah I know this road like the back of my  
hand  
Same with the stations, only FM band  
Farms and truck stops and firework  
stands  
I know this road like the back of my hand

And I have seen the signs that say  
We're closing in the final days  
But I got nothing left to report  
A saving grace is with the ghost of  
highway 20  
That my saving grace is with the ghost of  
highway 20  
Yeah my saving grace is with the ghost of  
highway 20

# Bitter Memory

Go away bitter memory  
I feel finally you stay away from me  
But I was wrong, you're still strong  
Go away bitter memory

Yeah go away bitter memory  
You keep on botherin' me  
Why won't you let me be  
You made my cry, why won't you die  
Go away bitter memory

Well bitter memory you're a thorn in my side  
Bitter memory you're the trouble on my mind  
Find a new place to call home, you're not welcome anymore  
Let me show you to the door bitter memory

Go away bitter memory  
why do you have to be a source of misery  
leave me alone let me live on  
go away bitter memory

yeah go away bitter memory  
and quit constantly interrupting me  
don't come around you lonesome sound  
go away bitter memory

Well bitter memory you're a thorn in my side  
Bitter memory you're the trouble on my mind  
Find a new place to call home, you're not welcome anymore  
Let me show you to the door bitter memory

Well bitter memory you're a thorn in my side  
Bitter memory you're the trouble on my mind  
Find a new place to call home, you're not welcome anymore  
Let me show you to the door bitter memory  
Let me show you to the door bitter memory  
Let me show you to the door bitter memory



## **Factory**

Early in the morning, the factory whistle blows  
A man rises from bed and puts on his clothes  
He takes his lunch and walks out in the morning light  
It's the working, the working, just the working life

Through mansions of fear, through the mansions of pain  
I see my daddy walking through the factory gates in the rain  
Factory takes his hearing, the factory gives him life  
It's the working, the working, just the working life

End of the day, factory whistle cries  
Men walk through these gates with death in their eyes  
You better believe boy somebody's gonna get hurt tonight  
It's the working, the working, just the working life

Early in the morning, the factory whistle blows  
Man rises from bed and puts on his clothes  
He takes his lunch and walks out in the morning light  
It's the working, the working, just the working life  
It's the working, the working, just the working life  
The working, the working, just the working life

## **Can't Close the Door on Love**

You're just a little rough around the edges  
Tough as nail, made of stone  
But that's exactly what I expected  
Cause baby, you're one piece of work

You're smart as a whip though you can be a handful  
You're always right some of the time  
And I know we fight and we can raise some hell  
But I'm gonna be with you for the rest of my life

Cause trust me you can't close the door on our love  
Just because you made somebody cry  
It ain't no thing, its just a little teardrop  
And trust me you can't close the door on love

I know you've got a little of that boy in you  
And I got a little of that girl in me  
But at the end of the day, we know what to do

And that's the way it's always gonna be

Trust me you can't close the door on our love  
Just because you made somebody cry  
It ain't no thing, its just a little teardrop  
Baby trust me, you can't close the door on love

Trust me you can't close the door on our love  
Just because you made somebody cry  
It ain't no thing, its just a little teardrop  
And trust me you can't close the door on love  
Trust me you can't close the door on love

## **If My Love Could Kill**

If my love could kill, if my love could kill  
I would kill this, I would kill this  
Slayer of wonder, slayer of words  
Murderer of poets, murderer of songs

Who robbed me of your memory  
Robbed me of your time  
Made her way into the symphony  
Of your beautiful mind, of your beautiful mind

If my love could kill, if my love could kill  
I would kill this, I would kill this  
Destroyer of brilliance, destroyer of hope  
Invader of skin, invader of bone

Who robbed me of your memory  
Robbed me of your time  
Made her way into the symphony  
Of your beautiful mind, of your beautiful mind

If my love could kill, if my love could kill  
I would kill this, I would kill this  
I would kill this, I would kill this

If my love could kill, if my love could kill  
If my love could kill, if my love could kill

## If There's a Heaven

When you go, you let me know if there's a heaven out there  
When you leave me here to grieve in pain and despair  
I've seen the face of hell, I know that place pretty damn well  
But when you go, you'll let me know if there's a heaven out there

On the day you fly away, far beyond the blue  
When you're done, and your run is finally through  
I'm forced to let go, there'll be no greater sorrow  
On that day you fly away, far beyond the blue

I'll be lost when you cross over to the other side  
Will my pain be in vain, I found out they lie  
When you go I need to know that what they say is really so  
Cause I'll be lost when you cross over to the other side

You promise me this before you let go of my hand  
Before we visit our last kiss and you are cold and cannot stand  
Before it's finally time and you've taken my sunshine  
Will you promise me this before you let go of my hand

When you go, you let me know if there's a heaven out there  
When you leave me here to grieve in pain and despair  
I've seen the face of hell, I know that place pretty damn well  
But when you go, you'll let me know if there's a heaven out there

When you go, you let me know  
If there's a heaven out there

## Faith & Grace

There's a little more faith and grace  
To help me run this race  
That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
That's all, that's all, all I need  
There's a little more faith and grace  
Is all that I'll need

My burden seems hard to bear  
No one will help me share  
But I know I can make the call  
Cause I know God will hear

It seemed like every door is locked  
I know you gonna hear me knock  
And I know I will stand right  
Cause I'm standing on the rock

There's just a little more faith and grace  
To help me to run this race  
That's all, that's all, all I need  
That's all, that's all, all I need  
Just a little more faith and grace  
Is all that I'll need

My burden is hard to bear  
And no one to help me share  
But I know I can make the call  
Cause I know God will hear

It seemed like every door is locked  
And I know He's gonna hear me knock  
And I know I'm gonna stand right  
Cause I'm standing on the rock

There's a little more faith and grace  
To help me run this race  
That's all, that's all, all I need  
That's all, that's all I need  
Just a little more faith and grace is all that  
I'll need

That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
That's all, that's all, that's all I need

That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
That's all, that's all, that's all I need  
Faith and grace will help my run this race