

# The Rail Song

Adrian Belew

I recall as a boy we would hop the freights  
Wasn't nothin' but a kick back then  
There was no better thrill for my anxious heart  
Than a long flatcar

Headin' out of the yard  
And I knew even then she was in my blood  
Like the time when I first hired on  
And the fireman laughed at my bony nose

But he tossed me a cap  
Said GM&O  
And I was a man...

I gave her my best years  
Well, what can you do but laugh  
I don't expect she'll ever be coming back

When we climbed up the great Appalachians  
Her engines would be raging like hell  
Then we'd come back down to the rising towns  
Where the cattle stare

In the frozen air  
For me there nothing more sacred  
Than the beautiful sound she'd make  
Her long blue signal blowin' deep in the night,

It would get to me there,  
It would get to me there  
Now I'm afraid...

Afraid of these silent hours  
Awake underneath my old cap  
I don't expect she'll ever be coming back

Well, I watched the beginning of the end for her  
When I saw my first jet airplane  
Flying high overhead like a bird of prey  
While the mighty fell

In the land of the brave  
Now I'm alone.