Well I could take the glory
But I'll tell y'all the story about a man
Who was headed down the drain
Wallowing in misery
His own penitentiary
Built out of nothing but pain
With his hand on the gun
Told the devil, "I'm done"
As he tossed in the keys
Let me tell y'all a secret
It's too good to keep it
Y'all that man was me
And it goes

You can hear it in the songs I sing
It's a desperate, aching thing
'Cause I've been down
I've been kicked around
I've been broken off and I'm still breaking
But like the bellow of a hound
In the bottoms I've found
This sound
Well it was years in the making

Well the days got long and the life piled on And those demons didn't come cheap So I laid there to die on them ole crossties But no one came for me So I stopped that train, nearly went insane There in the dark alone I said one last prayer, watched it vanish in the air And I heard that whistle moan And it moaned like

And you can hear it in the songs I sing
It's a desperate, aching thing
'Cause I've been down
I've been kicked around
I've been broken off and I'm still breaking
But like the bellow of a hound
In the bottoms I've found
This sound
Well it was years in the making

Now when the jury bell rings and the black coal sings And the dark cloud brings the rain When the sun ain't found in the midnight hour Runs out of things to say, and it goes

You can hear it in the songs I sing
It's a desperate, aching thing
'Cause I've been down
I've been kicked around
I've been broken off and I'm still breaking
But like the bellow of a hound
In the bottoms I've found
This sound