

# Lament For Lester Cousins

Corb Lund

Lester Cousins left his brothers on a work truck filled with others  
'Cause his father left his mother years ago  
Well, Lester's mother took in lovers to feed and clothe his younger brothers  
So at thirteen years, our Lester chose to go

Men introduced him to hard labour, moving earth and stacking hay  
Were all the options that were open to the boy  
And the same men showed our Lester Lady Luck's appeal and blessed her  
With a trusting young disciple to enjoy

With the gamblin' came the drinkin' and the cocaine and the sinkin'  
That accompanies a man who's falling down  
And pretty soon the fightin' and the whoring every night  
An' pills and losing left his spirit on the ground

Well, there comes a time when even hardened men need to believe in  
Something more and look within and be afraid  
When a particularly rough night took his friend in one more knife fight  
For the first time in his hard life, Lester prayed

Lester now, Lester now, keep it together  
We all want to see you succeed  
Lester now, Lester now, hold it together  
'Cause your goodness is what the world needs  
Lester now, Lester now, keep it together  
And don't lose that spirit of yours  
And for the sake of us all, Lester, try not to fall with the weight of the world at your door

Well, God led Lester to a lady who was finally worth the wait  
Bought a ring and changed his ways and settled down  
And he farmed his forty acres, raised a daughter, loved his Maker  
Loved his wife and earned respect all through the town

Hard at work and clean and sober fifteen years come this October  
All the vices of his past had disappeared  
Very little did he know then, that the young, out of control men  
That his mother'd learned to dread would reappear

Well, his life and home were shattered and his wife and daughter battered  
When the kind he knew so well came back around  
An incontainable aggression induced Lester to regress and  
Coldly murder those who'd raped the love he'd found

It didn't take them long to find him or convict him or confine him  
To a cell block full of wounded prisoner doom  
'Cause despite his mother's will, her Lester Cousins was a killer now  
Who'd never live to leave the jailer's tomb

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Lester now, Lester now, hold it together  
'Cause your goodness is what the world needs  
Lester now, Lester now, keep it together  
And don't lose that spirit of yours  
And for the sake of us all, Lester, try not to fall with the fate of the world on the floor

And for the sake of us all, Lester, try not to fall with the hate of the world as your whore