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You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive

Written by Darrell Scott. Arranged by Glenn Watt.

For 3-string Open G "GDG" Tuning. Arranged in the Key of Dm.

Dm F C G

G 2—5—7—9—5—2—0—0—0—0—2—5—

D —7—3—2—3—0—

G —10—2—5—3—

In the deep, dark hills of eastern Kentucky there's a

Dm F Bb Bb F

G 7—7—9—5—2—5—7—2—5—7—9—5—0—

D 7—3—3—3—3—3—

G 10—2—3—3—2—

place that I trace my bloodline. And it's there I read on a

C G Bb A7 Dm

G 0—0—0—0—0—3—3—3—2—2—

D 2—0—3—3—5—3—0—

G 5—3—7—2—2—

Hillside gravestone, "You'll never leave Harlan a-live."

F Bb C F

G —2—5—5—2—5—7—5—5—5—2—2—2—

D 3—3—3—3—2—3—

G —2—3—0—5—

Where the sun comes up a-bout ten in the morning and the

Dm Bb F Bb F

G 0—2—5—5—

D —3—0—0—0—3—3—3—3—3—3—3—

G —2—3—2—3—2—

sun goes down a-bout three in the day. And you fill your cup

Bb C F

G —2—5—7—5—5—7—2—2—0—

D 3—3—3—2—3—3—3—3—

G —3—0—5—

With whate-ver bitter brew you're drinking and you spend your

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Dm Bb Dm

G ————— 0 —————

D 0—0—3—3—2—0—

G 2—3—3—2—

Life just tryin' to get a-way.

If you have a difficult time making the stretch to play...

Bb Bb

G —7—3—

D —3—OR—3—

G —3—7—

Try these substitute chord shapes...

Bb Bb Bb Bb

G —7—7—3—3—

D —8—FOR—3—AND—3—FOR—3—

G —10—3—3—7—

Additional lyrics

Oh, my granddad's dad walked down Katahrins Mountain
and he asked Tillie Helton to be his bride.
He said, "Won't you walk with me out of the mouth of this holler?
Or we'll never leave Harlan alive."

No one ever knew there was coal in them mountains
'til a man from the Northeast arrived.
Waving hundred dollar bills he said, "I'll pay you for your minerals."
But he never left Harlan alive.

Granny sold out cheap and they moved out west of Pineville
to a farm where big Richland River winds.
I bet they danced them a jig, laughed and sang a new song
"Who said we'd never leave Harlan alive?"

But the times got hard and tobacco wasn't selling
and ole granddad knew what he'd do to survive.
He went and dug for Harlan coal
and sent the money back to granny
but he never left Harlan alive.