

48

Goodnight Irene

1/2

For years this was the theme song of Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Leadbelly, King of the Twelve-String Guitar. The Weavers sang with him many times and learned many songs from him, such as this ballad of the girl who married a rounder and a bounder.

Words and music by Huddie Ledbetter and John Lomax

Chorus *Vigorously sentimental*

The musical score consists of six staves of handwritten music. The top staff is for the vocal part, starting with a G major chord (three quarter notes) and a D7 chord (two quarter notes). The lyrics 'I - rene, good night; _____' are written below the notes. The second staff is for the piano, featuring a bass line with a bass clef and a treble line with a treble clef, both in G major. The third staff continues the vocal line with 'rene, good night; _____' and 'Good night, I - rene, good'. The fourth staff continues the piano line. The fifth staff concludes the vocal line with 'night, I - rene, I'll see you in my dreams. _____'. The sixth staff concludes the piano line. Chords are marked above the vocal staff: G, D7, G7, C, D7, G, and FIN. The piano staff ends with a dynamic marking 'p' (piano).

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Verse

G

D7

1. Last Sat - ur - day night I got mar - ried, _____ Me and my
 2. Some- times I live in the coun - try, _____ Some - times I

G

G7

wife set - tled down, _____ Now me and my wife _____ are
 live in town, _____ Some - times I take a great

C

D7

G

D. C. al FINE

part - ed, _____ I'm gon-na take an-oth-er stroll down - town. _____
 no - tion _____ To jump in - to the riv - er and drown. _____ D. C. al FINE

P. P. P. P.

3. She caused me to weep, she caused me to mourn,
 Caused me to leave my home,
 But the very last words I heard her say
 Was, "Please sing me one more song." (Chorus)

4. Stop ramblin', stop your gamblin',
 Stop stayin' out late at night;
 Go home to your wife and your family;
 Stay there by your fireside bright. (Chorus)