

WHEN THERE'S GOOD TO BE DONE

Song about Christy Harding

1. In a bright sunny Florida home,
Christy was on-line, and she was there alone,
A Minnesota girl caught her eye,
Usually, she'd scroll on by,
Sick kids were too sad,
Was it an angel, that said, "Don't pass" ?

2. Arianna smiled at her,
"I'm two years old, I need a kidney donor,
Dialysis since seven weeks old,
You might be my hero,
Is your blood type O?"
Christy said "Yes," and picked up the phone,
And she said,

CHORUS

*When there's good to be done,
You must do it.
You can't wait for someone else
To get to it.
I knew it was God's plan,
He'd see me through it.
How could I say no,
When I could do it?*

3. She told her husband 'bout the girl,
"If she was our Sarah, we would search the world."
A battery of tests were begun,
Up north for final ones,
Six months since that day,
"You're the perfect match," they called to say.

4. She got back on that on-line page,
Sent a message to the mom and she did say,
"I'm Christy, I'm honored to meet you,
I've got a two year old too.
I'm your girl's donor,"
And the mother could not find words.
Christy said,

CHORUS

5. On a bright Minnesota day,
Christy woke up and she was feeling pain,
The very first thing she did say,
"Is Arianna OK?"
She gave life that day,
And the purest joy, was Christy's pay.

ENDING - When there's good to be done,
We must do it X 3

JUNE ON HIS MIND

Song about Leonard Olson

1. Len and June were sweethearts
In school they were as one,
They wanted so to marry,
But they knew they were too young.
So Leonard joined the Navy,
He quit school to fight at sea,
June waitressed after school, at the Cozy Tea.

He shipped out on the USS Reid,
1944.
In Philippines they guarded
The supply ships off the shore
He positioned a gun on port side
In the fighting from the start,
He kept his pocket Bible,
Buttoned near his heart.

CHORUS

*Kamikazes in the sky,
Come to kill, come to die,
Bible in his pocket,
And June on his mind.*

2. The Reid was the flagship,
Of the convoy on that day,
They headed down to Ormoc,
After they left Leyte Bay,
Len was on deck when he heard
"To your Battle stations men,"
Then terrifying silence
In skies overhead.

Then a gunner's mate said,
"I see them, twelve are there,"
Len pointed his gun at them,
The machine guns opened fire,
One roared so close off port side,
Len could almost touch the wing,
Bullets hailed down,
The world was deafening.

CHORUS

3. Len was almost knocked down,
A plane crashed on starboard,

One crashed the ammunition
 His bomb blew the ship apart,
 A great explosion, fire raged
 The Reid rolled to starboard side,
 She sank stern first,
 In two minutes time.

Len reached for his life belt,
 And jumped into the sea,
 Bullets strafed the waters,
 Of the warm Comotes Sea,
 Above the planes were firing,
 And then twenty feet away,
 A man called out for help and,
 Sank beneath the waves.

CHORUS

4. The sailor's head came up,
 Len swam right to him,
 He held him above water,
 And kept ahold of him,
 A sailor came to help then,
 And they treaded water for
 The man they saved 3000 feet,
 Above the ocean floor.

They were all rescued,
 In an hour maybe less,
 A hundred and three men died,
 Most all below the decks,
 A hundred fifty-five survived,
 And Len was one so blessed,
 He married his dear June
 In 1946.

WHAT EACH ONE NEEDS

About Chuck & Sherri Leyda

1. Twelve years old, she's their first girl,
 They thought she'd live in their world,
 But she dances on the spectrum where,
 Clara's a fairy princess there.

She hands her camera to her mom,
 Puts a great big smile on,
 She speaks no words but mama knows,
 She must capture this pose.

CHORUS

*Twenty four seven takes its toll,
 But Mom and Dad love these souls.
 Up all night if tantrums flow,*

Or sensory over-load.

*They see what each one needs,
 They teach where each path leads,
 Their joy is plain to see,
 When they seetheir kids happy.*

2. Red haired Rowan, ten years old,
 Rocks the spectrum in his world,
 He twirls his string of shiny beads,
 Climbs the fence at lightning speed.

He taps his dad right on the chest,
 Never speaks, but can request,
 Dad lifts him on his shoulders high,
 They watch the world go by.

CHORUS

3. Little Mary with blue eyes,
 She's a neuro-typical child,
 When Clara runs too far a-field,
 She follows, speaks to her softly.

Rowan dives under a couch and
 Grabs Mary by the hand,
 They share this little secret space,
 Their smiles....light up the place. *CHORUS*

ON THE DAY THEY SAID I DO

About Mildred and Cletus Simonet

1. He was raised right there in town
 Up the hill south of downtown,
 Nice brick house with plumbing too,
 His father had it built brand new.
 Catholic college, business man
 In every way a gentle man.
 He crossed the sea in forty-four
 Courtesy of the World War.

2. Swedish girl with quiet charm,
 She was born up on the farm,
 Light brown hair and eyes of blue,
 Sang in the Lutheran choir too.
 She filled the lamps with kerosene,
 Milked the cows, cooked and cleaned.
 She finished school in forty-four,
 She worked the fields and dreamed of more.

CHORUS

*Some said yes, some said no,
 She's too young, he's too old.
 City boy and country girl,*

*Different churches, different worlds.
But on the day they said, "I do,"
They only heard "I love you."*

3. Near Thanksgiving, forty-five,
He came home thankful he was alive,
His five and dime closed by the war,
So he worked at Reed's drugstore.
She'd moved to town in the spring,
The hospital had an opening.
For room and board and a little more,
She passed trays up on the floors.

4. She walked into Reed's one day,
He waited on her when she paid,
As she walked away down Main,
She stole a glance back his way.
He was standing in the door,
To see where she was headed for,
She looked down and walked away,
But they knew it was their first day.

CHORUS

5. She was in the Grand Cafe,
When he came in one autumn day,
They shared a booth, brown eyes and blue,
Then he walked her back to the hospital.
He took her to the matinee,
The very next Saturday.
Suit and tie, yellow dress,
They both wore their very best.

6. Christmas Eve in gentle snow,
He showed up laughing ho, ho, ho,
Bottle of perfume in hand,
Would she take him as her man?
On a cold and wintry day,
The sun shone on their wedding day.
For fifty years through thick and thin,
They shared one path till God called him.

CHORUS

DRAGONFLY

About Mary Ann Peltier Rigney

1. Now Mary Ann never got sick,
So she thought there was nothing a-miss.
Breathless and fatigued at times,
There was no pain, she must be fine.
Laying on her stomach one day,
Felt like a balloon inside,
So she got an ultrasound, then a cat-scan,

She saw cancer in their eyes.

2. This strange and new world she was in,
She knew her family'd help her win,
"Boys your mom's a stubborn cuss,
I'm going to beat this crap for us."
They laughed and then they cried,
Then she and her husband decide,
To pull up their bootstraps and hit it head on,
And with gusto on their side.

CHORUS

*Oh beautiful dragonfly,
On gossamer wings you fly,
Fragile and paper thin,
But so powerful within.
Such a heavy load,
You and sisters on this road
You find strength deep inside,
Iridescent dragonfly.*

3. Her ovaries out and where it had spread,
Then two brutal chemo meds.
Hooked to an I.V. each day,
Family would always stay.
Exhaustion right away,
So weak and sick ev'ry day,
And then 2 weeks off try to sleep some and then,
She'd start over once again.

4. Now when she started losing her hair,
She shaved her head, the boys shaved theirs.
Drugs could make her scatter brained,
Her kids laughed, "Mom, you're just that way."
She made it through six months,
Then another cat-scan comes,
And then her nerves set in you sit there and wait,
You just wait there for your fate.

CHORUS

5. The telephone rang finally,
"I have good news, you are cancer free."
She thanked her doctors and heaven,
In 18 months she felt human again.
But there's no guarantee,
Her husband walked out you see,
And the telephone rang with a message that she
Hoped that never had to be.

6. "We're sorry it came back," they say,
Mary Ann's battle continues today.
She never says why me,
That isn't who, she wants to be.

Three times she lost her hair,
 Came in brown instead of gray
 She smiles and she laughs she says, "Now I'm
 getting
 So much younger every day."

CHORUS

WHERE THE NORTH WIND BLOWS

About Peter Razor

1. In the tiny closet,
 He sat on the cold floor,
 He heard the other kids play,
 Through a vent low on the door
 Long hours in the darkness,
 His knees tight to his chest,
 Till Miss Munson let him out,
 "Now you behave, and you
 Get right to bed."

Peter was abandoned
 In 1929
 A boarding house in St. Paul
 Found a baby left behind,
 They sent this little Native
 American baby to
 Owatonna,
 An orphanage, it was called the State School.

2. Peter got a letter,
 When he was about ten,
 It held a single dollar,
 And a big surprise for him.
 It said, "I am your grandma
 It's way up north I am,
 Near the reservation."
 He read it over and over again.

Two more letters came then,
 And two more dollar bills,
 But it came to a quick end,
 Never heard from her again.
 His files have a letter
 From her to the State School,
 "I'd like to raise my grandson,"
 But they said no, and Peter never knew.

CHORUS

*In the library,
 There's a map that shows
 Where my grandma lives,
 Where the north wind blows.*

3. After lights are put out, you
 Must not leave your bed,
 But Peter was so thirsty,
 He ran for a drink instead.
 He heard Miss Munson's footsteps,
 He doubled up in bed.
 And then he saw the hammer,
 It struck his arms, his right kneecap, his chest.

He hid all his bruises
 And walked with a bad limp,
 He scrubbed the floor on his knees, and
 Infection set right in.
 The nurse asked what happened,
 But he dare not speak.
 The only thing his files say,
 Is infection, hospital, for six weeks.

4. Weeding in the garden,
 He cut a bean off by mistake,
 So Mr Beaty kicked him,
 In the dirt there Peter lay.
 He screamed, "You dirty Injun,"
 Then kicked him in the chest,
 His State School records say,
 He is a loner, he keeps to himself.

Peter and his two friends,
 Ran off one July night,
 They hopped a north bound freight train
 To find grandma, and new life.
 They rode and then they walked
 for a week but they were caught,
 Never found the reservation,
 They did not find his grandma.

CHORUS

5. They placed him on a farm,
 When he turned fifteen.
 The farmer beat his own wife,
 Attacked Peter all the time,
 One night in drunken rage,
 A piece of wood raised high,
 He hit Peter in the head,
 He was knocked out, cold, by the woodpile.

When he finally woke up,
 He wondered would he die.
 They left him in the
 Cold November night.
 He crawled out to the highway and
 Flagged down a ride.
 His social worker's records say,

He liked it there, and they were so kind.

6. After he recovered
He went to Lee Klug's farm,
The couple spoke so softly,
He thought, "Why are they so warm?"
It was a new beginning,
Could have gone either way,
But he chose to be like them,
So kind and thoughtful, it was just their way.

Peter keeps on working,
To keep the ghosts at bay,
He wrote his own memoir,
To release his early days.
He joined the Fond du Lac
Band of Ojibway,
He has a loving family,
And now he tries, to let demons fade away.

CHORUS

GIVE LOVE A CHANCE

About Larry & Doreen Von Berg

1. They saw each other Sunday nights,
Down at the drop-in center,
Student union volunteers,
They greeted folks together.
They both got jobs and moved away,
She said, "I'll write you Larry."
Their letters flew, and then she thought,
"He is the man I'll marry."

2. Across three states, on Greyhound bus,
She rode to Kansas City,
Doreen said, "Let's say I do,"
He said, "I am not ready."
He wrote to her, "Please let's be friends,"
But she refused to answer.
A year had passed and then she wrote,
But he never got that letter.

CHORUS

*Time and miles and lost messages,
Play havoc with romance,
But may life always find a way,
To give love a chance.*

3. She got a job in social work,
Back home in Minnesota,
Sometimes she wondered where he was,
She always kept their photo.
When almost forty years flew by,

She found him right on-line,
But her message never got to him,
Just like the last time.

4. He moved to Minnesota to
Work at the Courage Center,
He searched online for Doreen,
But he could never find her.
One day he read an article,
About a homeless shelter,
It said Doreen was working there,
Five miles from Courage Center.

CHORUS

5. He sent a message, she replied,
"I'd like to get together."
Sparks flew like when they were young,
Now could it be forever?
Then one year later he proposed,
"I love you so," said Larry.
And she was right, so long ago,
He is the man she married.

CHORUS

CASE 9164

Song about Harvey Ronglien

1. On a cold November day
All seven kids lined up,
On the Benson Courthouse steps,
It was 1931.

"Can you afford to take a child,
Now in their time of need?
Their daddy is in prison
Their mama's got TB."

The farmers led each one away,
The big ones first to go.
Till Harvey and Oscar stood alone,
They were four and five years old.

2. When they reached the orphanage,
And Oscar screamed in fear,
A matron pulled him from the car
Saying "We do not cry here."

So Harvey learned to blend right in,
And never rock the boat,
A robot, he moved along
He did as he was told.
A warehouse of five hundred kids,

In each cottage, thirty-four,
Harvey lived in C-Eleven,
He was Case nine one six four.

CHORUS 1

*No one ever told
What happened at State School,
Teachers looked away
With an iron hand matrons ruled,
Broken bones and bruises,
Can happen any day,
Must have fallen down or tripped
While he was at play.*

3. Out the door they walked to school,
All lined up two by two,
Harvey who was 10 years old,
Took his tie off, broke the rules.

Miss Morgan was there watching them,
She said Harvey, "Come back."
She struck him open handed,
With his arms, he pushed back.

So she beat his head against
A cement wall again and again,
Over and over until he thought,
She'd be the death of him.

4. Up at six am and then,
Sit still there in your chair,
Eat your breakfast silently,
And no questions, don't you dare.

There were no birthday parties cause,
You were nothing special there,
You wax the living room floor
But don't you sit in there.

His matron when he was fifteen,
Was named Miss Julia Keefe
She was kind and decent,
Showed him how people could be.

CHORUS 2

*Harvey had clean clothes,
A roof over his head,
School, chores, church and play,
At night he had a bed.*

*Three square meals but he starved,
There at the State School,
No one took him on their lap,*

And said, "I love you."

5. Harvey grew up by and by,
Got married to Maxine,
She taught him how to love
How to trust a family.

When he took to the bottle trying
To medicate his scars,
His family got him help then,
To see just what they are.

They started a museum,
So now it's in plain view,
All that happened, good and bad
There at the State School.

Case 9164..... 9164

THE BRIDGE

About Garrett Ebling

1. He usually never crossed that bridge
But on that hot August day,
The comp'n'y picnic was all done,
And he turned the wrong way,
And he turned the wrong way.

His Ford Focus just crawled along,
Rush hour on thirty-five,
His windows down, his music on,
Above the river high,
Above the river high.

2. First Garrett felt a sudden jolt,
Saw a sea of red brake lights,
His windshield was a movie screen,
They all dropped out of sight,
They all dropped out of sight.

Head first he rolled toward the abyss,
There was no more concrete,
The movie went black as he fell,
A hundred and ten feet,
A hundred and ten feet.

CHORUS

*Six seconds flat, the bridge collapsed,
Somehow Garrett did survive,
Screams in the silent aftermath,
Thirteen lost their lives.*

*Garrett took his second chance,
When they patched him back together.*

*And asked God's help to work to make
Himself just that much better*

3. Rick left his truck on River Road,
Ran straight down to the slaughter,
He pulled Garrett from the Ford,
As it filled up with water,
As it filled up with water.

He woke up in the hospital,
Almost three weeks after,
His body broken head to toe,
His whole face had been shattered,
His whole face had been shattered.

4. His colon severed, brain trauma,
Badly broken arm and ankles,
They re-built his face and said,
"You are a miracle,
"You are a miracle."

A hundred forty-five injured,
He was among the worst,
He fought the suffr'ing and the pain,
He learned to walk again,
He learned to walk again.

CHORUS

5. Just as he started to gain strength,
Post traumatic stress set in,
So he tried hard in therapy,
He worked hard again
He worked hard again.

He tells folks how he made it through,
Now he shares what he attained,
Determination and his faith
Got him on his feet again,
Got him on his feet again.

CHORUS

HABIBO

About Habibo Haji

1. "Habibo it is sunrise,"
She heard her grandma say,
"Now that you're six years old,
You'll go alone today,"
So she got her shepherd stick,
Goats and sheep out of the pen
Led them through the village,
To the open grasslands.

Somali sun blazed down on
This quiet peaceful place
She walked and walked for miles
As the animals grazed,
All at once the herd scattered,
Jackals had one by the throat,
That night grandma whipped her,
For she lost a sheep and goat.

2. She was born in Mogadishu,
'Bout nineteen eighty-one.
Her dad took off, her mom
Gave her to her grandma.
In the village you grew up fast,
In order to survive,
No time for affection,
You just worked to stay alive.

She fetched water from the river,
When she was seven years old,
Cooked barley on the fire,
Then herded sheep and goats
And she learned by this time,
Grandma taught her the hard way,
When a boy molests you,
You are beaten for going astray.

CHORUS

*She can see for miles and miles,
When she dreams of the grasslands,
Just the herd and the wind,
Break the quiet of that land.*

*Habibo you can do,
Anything you set your mind to,
You learned from all you've been through.
To let nothing stop you.*

3. Each day she worked her hardest,
So she could please Grandma,
She dreamed one day she'd say,
"Habibo, good job."
No one told her she was precious,
And one uncle broke her heart,
Called her fat and stupid,
And said her skin was too dark.

When drought came down upon them,
The grasslands parched so dry,
Someone had to take the herd,
To green grass or they would die,
Living out there as a nomad,
Months and months in the wild,

Was a job for teenage boys,
But Grandma sent this girl child.

4. In the village they heard stories
Told of the Civil War,
By nineteen ninety-two,
It knocked right on their door.
Now at night the men and boys
Had to fight other tribes,
She hid with the women,
In the woods to stay alive.

Her mom sent word she needed help,
Now could Habibo come?
She had four little kids,
Her new husband had run,
To Dadaab refugee camp,
She, her mom and the kids went,
A hundred fifty thousand
Souls in miles and miles of tents.

5. She lived there for three years,
Then won a lottery,
To go to America,
She'd send money to family.
She left there at seventeen,
For a place a world away.
Lights, cars, running water,
Enough food to eat each day.

She learned English and then math,
She'd never been to school,
Became a nursing assistant,
She got married too,
Now she works at Mayo Clinic
She's a registered nurse,
She tells her three children,
That she loved them from the first.

CHORUS

ENDING CHORUS - Nothing stops you.

I WILL GET HOME

About Lester Schrenk

1. Ball turret gunner in a B-17,
Lester joined when he was nineteen.
Headed back to England on his 10th mission,
Germans hit their number four engine.

The fuel tank trailed flames thirty feet long
Great explosions rocked each man
The pilot turned the plane around,

Tryin' to make it back to land.

2. Lester strapped on his parachute,
As the wintry North Sea they crossed,
When they saw the Denmark coast below,
They bailed out and the wing blew off.

Dozens of guns pointed at him,
As he landed hard in a field,
The beatings were brutal but all he would utter,
Was name, rank and serial number.

CHORUS

*Lester do you think that you
Will live through World War Two,
Will you see peace again,
And Minnesota too?*

*Oh what mother and father are going through,
I will not lose hope,
I have to get back for them,
I will get home.*

3. At Stalag Luft Six, Lester's hunger pangs
Never went away.
Once a day he got watery soup,
A can of rotten fish some days.

The Russian troops were closing in,
So they jammed the men in boxcars,
Then four days crowded so tight in a coal ship,
They stood, no food, a sip of water.

4. At the next camp, Stalag Luft Four,
There was less food than before.
When the Russians got close again, the Germans
evacuated,
Ten thousand men.

Lester marched out with five hundred of them,
So weak, that February day,
In bitter cold, with ragged clothes,
Bayonets pointed the way.

CHORUS

5. Week after week they staggered on,
They slept on frozen ground or in a barn,
Les had one thin blanket, holes in his shoes,
Like walking dead, they herded them along.

Some days they ate nothing, dysentery plagued
them,
And when a man could not go on,

Lester heard the shot, it happened every day,
And the German Death March moved on.

6. The English Army freed them in May,
They had walked for 86 days,
Evading the Allies nearly 800
Miles the experts now say.

In 2012 Lester met the pilot
Of the plane that shot him down,
He said thank you for sparing us,
You let us bail out and make it to ground.

CHORUS Ending- I did get home

WILLMAR 8 (WE ARE ALL EQUAL YOU KNOW)
About Glennis Ter Wisscha and the Willmar 8

1. Glennis heard the women talking
In the vault one day,
“The bank just hired another man
At nearly twice our pay.
We’re supposed to train him in and
Teach him all we know,
Then he will be our manager,
Just like it always goes.”

2. Willmar was a little farm town,
They weren’t feminists,
“But this is just plain wrong,” they said,
To that bank president.”
“We are not all equal you know,
Men need to earn more,
So they can take girls out on dates.”
His words just left them floored.

3. Glennis and the other seven,
Formed their own union,
In seventy-seven they went on strike,
It was Bank Local One.
Journalists and TV cameras,
Came to investigate,
In Minnesota bitter cold,
They were the Willmar 8.

CHORUS

*From across the country, ‘cross the world,
Letters came from women and from girls,
“The whole globe is watching you.
It’s starting now to improve.
You are doing this for all of us,
Please don’t stop, keep on you must,
We will sing, it must be told,*

We are all equal you know.”

4. Glennis wore a snowmobile suit,
As they walked the line,
Her eyelashes kept freezing shut,
A record wintertime.
Snow nor rain nor summer heat, now
Nothing kept them down.
Though lots of folks said, “Give it up.
We want peace in this town.”

5. They survived on fives and tens from
Folks you wrote thank you,
When Glennis was flat broke she said,
“I don’t know what I’ll do.”
She put her head down in her hands and
Teren said softly,
“Well I can help you out this week,
Next time it could be me.”

CHORUS

6. Nearly one year and a half they
Walked the picket line,
A judge ruled it was over and
They lost in seventy-nine.
A woman from another bank said,
“It’s better since your strike,”
Glennis said, “Then we have won,
You can’t lose when you’re right.”

CHORUS

FINAL CHORUS

*Doris, Shirley, Sandi and Irene,
Glennis, Teren, Sylvia, and Jane,
The whole globe is watching you.
It’s starting now to improve.
You are doing this for all of us,
Please don’t stop, keep on you must,
We will sing, it must be told,
We are all equal you know.*