

The Red Poppy

Music and lyrics by Charles de Lint

INTRO: 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [G]

I was [G] just about your age, kid, when they [C] shipped me overseas
I had a [D] duffle bag, to lean against, and a [C] rifle between my [G] knees
I [G] was so scared as we crossed the sea, that I'd [C] never come back home
But [D] since I did, now I'm scared, of [C] being all a-[G]lone [G]

Why [G] don't you buy me a beer, kid, and [C] sit with me a spell
I [D] promise I won't bend your ear, with the [C] stories I could [G] tell
About the [G] things we saw and the things we did and [C] how they won't leave me
We'll just [D] raise our bottles, in a toast, to their [C] loving memo-[G]ry [G]

Because this [D] poppy that I wear, I don't [C] wear it for my-[G]self
I [D] wear it to remember, those [C] friends I left in [G] hell
I [G] never understood, [C] how it'd come to be
That [D] those boys died, and I come home to [C] wear the red pop-[G]py [G]

INSTRUMENTAL VERSE:

Why [G] don't you buy me a beer, kid, and [C] sit with me a spell
I [D] promise I won't bend your ear, with the [C] stories I could [G] tell
About the [G] things we saw and the things we did, and [C] how they won't leave me
We'll just [D] raise our bottles in a toast, to their [C] loving memo-[G]ry [G]

Yeah I'm [G] here in the Legion Hall, [C] pretty much every night
It's [D] awful quiet at my place, I can't [C] sleep without a [G] light
I [G] know it all happened long ago, in those [C] lands across the sea
But when I [D] close my eyes, in the dark, it's like [C] yesterday to [G] me [G]

And this [D] poppy that I wear, I don't [C] wear it for my-[G]self
I [D] wear it to remember, those [C] friends I left in [G] hell
I [G] never understood, [C] how it came to be
That [D] those boys died, and I come home to [C] wear the red pop-[G]py

Yeah I [G] never understood, [C] how it came to be
That [D] those boys died, and I come home to [C] wear the red pop-[G]py

I [G] never understood, [C] how it came to be
That [D] those boys died, and I come home to [C] wear the red pop-[G]py

