

Never Leave Harlan Alive

Darrell Scott  [Am](#)

In the deep dark hills of eastern Kentucky Am C G F
 That's the place where I trace my bloodline Am C F
 And it's there I read on a hillside gravestone C D F
You'll never leave Harlan alive Am E7 Am

Oh, my granddad's dad walked down Katahrins mountain Am C G F
 And he asked Tillie Helton to be his bride Am C F
 Said, won't you walk with me out of the mouth of this holler C D F
 Or we'll never leave Harlan alive Am E7 Am

Chorus:

Where the sun comes up about ten in the morning C F C
 And the sun goes down about three in the day Am Bb F
 And you fill your cup with whatever bitter brew you're drinking C F C
 And you spend your life just thinkin' of how to get away Am Bb Am

No one ever knew there was coal in them mountains Am C G F
 Till a man from the Northeast arrived Am C F
 Waving hundred dollar bills he said I'll pay ya for your minerals C D F
 But he never left Harlan alive Am E7 Am

Granny sold out cheap and they moved out west of Pineville Am C G F
 To a farm where big Richland River winds Am C F
 I bet they danced them a jig, laughed and sang a new song C D F
 Who said we'd never leave Harlan alive Am E7 Am

Break

But the times got hard and tobacco wasn't selling Am C G F
 And ole granddad knew what he'd do to survive Am C F
 He went and dug for Harlan coal C
 And sent the money back to granny D F
 But he never left Harlan alive Am E7 Am

Chorus:

Where the sun comes up about ten in the morning C F C
 And the sun goes down about three in the day Am Bb F
 And you fill your cup with whatever bitter brew you're drinking C F C
 And you spend your life digging coal from the bottom of your grave Am Bb Am

1st verse Acapella