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Partner, workplace, and child abuse sometimes spawn literal repercussions...

Shotgun's Song

By Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

You put your mean hand on your woman—You know you do her wrong.
You put your mean hand on your woman—You know you do her wrong.
One day you'll come home after work—And hear the shotgun's song.

You treat your workers just like dirt—Been doing it all along.
You treat your workers just like dirt—Been doing it all along.
One day right in your office—You may hear the shotgun's song.

You beat your kids most every day, Teaching violence all day long. You beat your kids most every day, Teaching violence all day long. One day you'll go to beat them—And hear the shotgun's song.

Shotgun sings but one note,
Through a barrel thick and long.
Shotgun sings but one note,
Through a barrel thick and long.
It's the last note that you'll ever hear—
When they play the shotgun's song.

Our nation's greatest sin was 246 years of slavery and human trafficking. And its nightmares. America's Gulag, laying waste to 20 million souls. Amazed to see slavery still glorified and honored in one of the South's major slavetrading centers, Richmond, Virginia...

White Man Blues - Richmond 1851

By Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

White man sold my Momma,
To a mean man named Big Ned.
White man sold my Momma,
To a mean man named Big Ned.
Big Ned come 'round a' bragging-Said she's the best he ever had.

Big Ned's wife got jealous, And chased him with some guns. Big Ned's wife got jealous, And chased him with some guns. Big Ned grabbed my Momma's arm— And gave her to his sons.

When Daddy tried to help her, They cut that brave man down. When Daddy tried to help her, They cut that brave man down. Five white men with bullwhips— Put Daddy in the ground.

White man said stop crying—
That goes for all of you.
White man said stop crying—
That goes for all of you.
Said if he saw just one more tear—
He'd sell our sisters too.

The call came to the newsroom: Navy enlisted, just back from a six-month cruise, his wife met him at the pier—and handed him the kids. She'd had it. She was gone. People don't realize the incredible stress and heartbreak long separations impose on many military families. Bless them all.

Hard Times Norfolk

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My woman says she's leaving now, Just walking out the door.
My woman says she's leaving now, Just walking out the door.
She says cruise time's been lonely—Don't love me anymore.

So times are hard in Norfolk—A lonely sort of town.
So times are hard in Norfolk—A lonely sort of town.
So I think I'll drink some whiskey now—Drink whiskey 'til I drown.

We're shipping out tomorrow
And heading 'cross the sea.
We're shipping out tomorrow
And heading 'cross the sea.
Six more months of lonely times—
Six months of misery.

They pepper our lives. In politics. The workplace. TV. Families. Even religion. Whew! I know you know them well...

Tiny-Minded People

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Tiny-minded people,
Think you must think just like they do.
Tiny-minded people,
Think you must think just like they do.
Ain't but one way they can see the world,
No matter what you do.

Couldn't lead a horse to water,
Or lead me out the rain.
Couldn't lead a horse to water,
Or lead me out the rain.
So I think I'll go and pack my bags—
'Cause they're causing too much pain.

Tiny-minded people,
Think you must think just like they do.
Tiny-minded people,
Think you must think just like they do.
Ain't but one way they can see the world,
No matter what you do.

The Blues Will Have Its Way

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Baby says she's leaving now, I don't know what to say. Baby says she's leaving now, I don't know what to say. My world is sad and lonely--Now the blues will have its way.

The sun don't seem to shine no more, And darkness shades the day. The sun don't seem to shine no more, And darkness shades the day. The hopes I had walked out the door--Now the blues will have its way.

Time is now to turn the page,
I think it's time to play.
Time is now to turn the page,
I think it's time to play.
Gonna play you some mean harp right now—
So the blues can have its way.

Shotgun tenement, dirt lot, and danger all around. The place never leaves us.

Back Lot Boy

By Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

I was raised out in a back lot
In the meanest side of town.
I was raised out in a back lot
In the meanest side of town.
Where the dogs and cats would fight all day
And the sun ne'er touched the ground.

It was hell out in that back lot
There was evil all around.

It was hell out in that back lot
There was evil all around.

All the people there, they never smiled,
All they ever did was frown.

I was raised out in a back lot
In the meanest side of town.
I was raised out in a back lot
In the meanest side of town.
But you know that back lot taught me
Not to look down at the ground.

My little granddaughter asked if anything, even nursery rhymes, can be put to blues...

Nursery Rhymes Blues

Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

Jack and Jill went up the hill,
Big pail by their side.
Jack and Jill went up the hill,
Big pail by their side.
Jack fell down and broke his crown—
And Jill sat down and cried.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, To see what he could see. Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, To see what he could see. Humpty fell and broke his shell— For all eternity.

Old Mother Hubbard looked in her cupboard, And saw that it was bare.
Old Mother Hubbard looked in her cupboard, And saw that it was bare.
She had no food for her little ones—
And no one seemed to care.

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, Eating curds and whey.
Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, Eating curds and whey.
Along came big old spider—
And chased that girl away.

The Dragon's Roar

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It sounds like living thunder,
And it's knocking at my door.
It sounds like living thunder,
And it's knocking at my door.
You can't resist when it calls out—
And you hear the dragon's roar.

The dragon sees inside your soul,
And smells your fear and dread.
The dragon sees inside your soul,
And smells your fear and dread.
Lord knows I've tried but I just can't—
Get that dragon out my head.

I've tried to run until I dropped,
I'm tired, weak and sore.
I've tried to run until I dropped,
I'm tired, weak and sore.
Run all you want—there's no escape—
When you hear the dragon's roar.

It sounds like living thunder,
And it's knocking at my door.
It sounds like living thunder,
And it's knocking at my door.
You can't resist when it calls out—
And you hear the dragon's roar.

My tombstone will read 'He tried to warn you.'
Life's main frustration is trying to share foresight with others...

Shouting At The Wind

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I see bad weather coming,
Warning everyone I can.
I see bad weather coming,
Warning everyone I can.
But ain't nobody listening—
Feels like I'm shouting at the wind.

I'm in a really lonely place,
And cannot find a friend.
I'm in a really lonely place,
And cannot find a friend.
They all just turn and look away—
Feels like I'm shouting at the wind.

I see bad weather coming,
Warning everyone I can.
I see bad weather coming,
Warning everyone I can.
But ain't nobody listening—
Feels like I'm shouting at the wind.

The Call of the Wild

Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

It's the call of the wild—
Lord knows it calls my name.
It's the call of the wild—
Lord knows it calls my name.
Once that wild spirit grabs you—
Life can never be the same.

It's the call of the wild—
You can't deny it or turn it away.
It's the call of the wild—
You can't deny it or turn it away.
'Cause once the wild's inside you—
The wild will have its way.

It's the call of the wild—
Every night when the sun goes down.
It's the call of the wild—
Every night when the sun goes down.
Think I'll grab my harp and hit the clubs—
Burn a hole in this old town.

Howling At The Moon

Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

Howling at the moon,
Lord knows I never see the sun.
Howling at the moon,
Lord knows I never see the sun.
When most good folks are going to bed,
My howling's just begun.

Howling at the moon, And screaming at the sky. Howling at the moon, And screaming at the sky. Been howling since my first breath--Be howling 'til I die.

Howling at the moon,
Lord knows I never see the sun.
Howling at the moon,
Lord knows I never see the sun.
When most good folks are going to bed,
My howling's just begun.

Little Ida Leapaloo

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Little Ida Leapaloo,
She fuss and fight all day.
Little Ida Leapaloo,
She fuss and fight all day.
But when you get her 'tween the sheets—
She'll love your night away.

Little Ida Leapaloo,
Got a big stick in her hand.
Little Ida Leapaloo,
Got a big stick in her hand.
She heard he's running 'round on her—
I pity that poor man.

Little Ida Leapaloo,
She fuss and fight all day.
Little Ida Leapaloo,
She fuss and fight all day.
But when you get her 'tween the sheets—
She'll love your night away.

Do I Have To Beg You For It Baby?

By Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? If that's so, I'm begging now.

Spent up all my money,
Just to buy your diamond ring.
Spent up all my money,
Just to buy your diamond ring.
Looks so pretty on your finger-Will you give me anything?

Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? Do I have to beg you for it baby? If that's so, I'm begging now.

Boogey Man

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You know the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
I said the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
'Cause the Boogey Man's the Boogey Man—
That's what he's s'posed to do.

The Boogey Man is out there
He's hiding 'hind that tree
When time is right the Boogey Man
Jump out at you and me.

'Cause the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
I said the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
'Cause the Boogey Man's the Boogey Man—
That's what he's s'posed to do.

Boogey Man get up, Boogey Man get down, Boogey Man go' grab you Gonna turn your life around.

He scare the old lady,
He scare the old man,
He scare the livin' dickens
Outta anyone he can,

Because

The Boogey Man is out there
He's hiding 'hind that tree
When time is right that Boogey Man
Jump out at you and me.

You know the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
I said the Boogey Man go' get you
No matter what you do,
'Cause the Boogey Man's the Boogey Man—
That's what he's s'posed to do.

Big Rain's Coming

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The devil rains are falling—
God's punched his fist right through the sky.
The devil rains are falling—
God's punched his fist right through the sky.
We've gone and pissed off Nature—
Now She's going to make us cry.

There's floods where floods have never been—While fracking cracks the land.
There's floods where floods have never been—While fracking cracks the land.
Now Nature's going to show us
Who holds the upper hand.

You're trying to kill our future, Just to get your fill.
You're trying to kill our future, Just to get your fill.
Yes, you had to bit that apple—Had to make that dollar bill.

So the devil rains are falling—
God's punched his fist right through the sky.
Yes the devil rains are falling—
God's punched his fist right through the sky.
We've gone and pissed off Nature—
Now She's going to make us cry.

Big Storm Rising

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You'd best all run for cover, There's a big storm on the rise. You'd best all run for cover, There's a big storm on the rise. Better ball up in a tight knot, And cover both your eyes.

The lightning dances wildly,
The wind now owns the sky.
The lightning dances wildly,
The wind now owns the sky.
Better get way out of harm's way—
Or Lordy, you might die.

There's a big storm rising, But most swear it just ain't so. There's a big storm rising, But most swear it just ain't so. Yes you'd better get to shelter, 'Fore that wind begins to blow.

Success

By Frederick Talbott Copyright 2018

Got a knot inside your stomach, child,
And your throat is might dry.
Got a knot inside your stomach, child,
And your throat is might dry.
Gotta find yourself a new job
But you're too afraid to try.

The last job that you had was bad,
They didn't treat folks right.
The last job that you had was bad,
They didn't treat folks right.
They had a way of ruining days,
And turning them to night.

So get up off that sofa
And flip off that TV.
Yes, get up off that sofa
And flip off that TV,
And show the world that's waiting
You're the best that best can be.

Yes brush your teeth and shine your shoes
And push that resume.
I said brush your teeth and shine your shoes
And push that resume.
You're the best who ever asked for work,
The best they'll see today.

A sign of social calamity is the resulting evil that inspires oppressors to blame all problems on the oppressed.

AntiChrist

By Frederick Elmore Talbott Copyright 2018

Jesus Christ he told us
Heal the sick and help the poor.
Jesus Christ he told us
Heal the sick and help the poor.
But now there's folks among us
Say 'we don't do that any more.'

Churches sitting empty
Homeless sleeping in the rain.
Churches sitting empty
Homeless sleeping in the rain.
Preacher drives a fancy car
Never feeling others' pain.

They said serve God almighty By being good to serve His will. They said serve God almighty By being good to serve His will. Now the only God they worship Is the shabby dollar bill.

Christ said the selfish and the greedy Are doomed on Judgment Day. He said the selfish and the greedy Are doomed on Judgment Day. But they cast aside his teachings And walk the other way.

The evil souls among us
Ignore the sick and hate the poor.
The evil souls among us
Ignore the sick and hate the poor.
Look closely and you'll find out
Which side they're cheering for.