

Sad and Lonesome Day

Carter Family



1. Oh, today has been a lonesome day,
Today has been a lonesome day,
Today has been a lonesome day,
And it seems tomorrow'll be the same old way.
2. Oh they carried my mother to the burying ground,
They carried my mother to the burying ground,
They carried my mother to the burying ground,
And watched the pallbearers let her down.
3. Did you ever hear a church bell tone?
Did you ever hear a church bell tone?
Did you ever hear a church bell tone?
You may know by that she's dead and gone.
4. Oh, dig my grave with a silver spade,
Oh, dig my grave with a silver spade,
Oh, dig my grave with a silver spade,
And mark the place where I must lay.
5. There's one kind favor I ask of you,
There's one kind favor I ask of you,
There's one kind favor I ask of you,
That's to see that my grave is kept green.

Another song in the sentimental tradition of dead mothers and grieving children much like "Can the Circle Be Unbroken", also recorded by the Carter Family. It is also a country version of one of the best known blues songs which is also known as "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean", "One Kind Favor" and "Two White Horses in a Line" which were recorded by Blind Lemon Jefferson, Son House, B. B. King, Lightnin' Hopkins, Canned Heat, the Grateful Dead, Mike Bloomfield, Furry Lewis, Dave Van Ronk, Hobart Smith, Peter, Paul and Mary and others.

This version was recorded by the Carter Family with Sara and Maybelle singing very close harmony.

It was also recorded by Mike Seeger.