



# Goodnight, Irene

Words and Music by Leadbelly

Performed by Leadbelly

[LISTEN](#)

Huddie "Leadbelly" or "Lead Belly" Ledbetter was born in Mooringsport, LA, in 1889. Lead Belly's song catalog is consisted of well over 500 songs. The most famous are Midnight Special, Cotton Fields, Boll Weevil, Kisses Sweeter than Wine, Rock Island Line, among many more.

He was discovered by folklorists John and Alan Lomax, who were recording prison songs for the Library of Congress. They brought him to New York where he played on college campuses like Harvard, Princeton, and NYU, where he was received with great acclaim.

His music still has a great influence on some of the greatest artists both black and white. Artists like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Little Richard, have all expressed their early studies of music to Lead Belly's records. [LEARN MORE](#)

## ABOUT THE SONG

"**Goodnight, Irene**" or "**Irene, Goodnight**," is a 20th-century American Folk standard, first recorded by American blues musician Huddie 'Leadbelly' Ledbetter in 1933. A version recorded by the Weavers was a #1 hit in 1950.

3/4 Time

# GOODNIGHT, IRENE **Key C /Original Key Bb**

(Huddie Ledbetter /1933) - Leadbelly

## CHORUS

*Irene, Goodnight... Irene, Goodnight...  
Goodnight, Irene... Goodnight, Irene...  
I Kissed You In My Dreams*

- 1) Sometimes I Live In The Country  
Sometimes I Live In Town  
Sometimes I Take A Great Notion  
To Jump Into The River And Drown

## CHORUS

- 2) Stop Rambling, Stop Your Gambling  
Stop Staying Out Late At Night  
Go Home To Your Wife And Your Family  
And Sit By Your Fireside Bright

## CHORUS

- 3) Last Saturday Night I Got Married  
Me And My Wife Settled Down  
Now Me And My Wife Are Parted  
I'm Gonna Take Another Stroll Uptown

## CHORUS

- 4) I love Irene, God Knows I Do  
Love Her Til The Seas Run Dry  
If Irene Turn Her Back On Me  
Gonna Take Morphine And Die

## CHORUS

# GOODNIGHT, IRENE Key C /Original Key Bb

(Huddie Ledbetter /1933) - Leadbelly

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## CHORUS

{C,2m} Irene Good - {G7,2m} night  
 {G7,2m} Irene, Good - {C,2m} night... Good  
 {C7,2m} night Irene... Good - {F,2m} night Irene... I  
 {G7,2m} Kissed You In My {C,2m} Dreams

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- 1) {C,2m} Sometimes I Live In The {G7,2m} Country  
 {G7,2m} Sometimes I Live In {C,2m} Town  
 {C7,2m} Sometimes I Take A Great {F,2m} Notion... To  
 {G7,2m} Jump Into The River And {C,2m} Drown
- 

## CHORUS

- 2) Stop {C,2m} Rambling, Stop Your {G7,2m} Gambling... Stop  
 {G7,2m} Staying Out Late At {C,2m} Night... Go  
 {C7,2m} Home To Your Wife And Your {F,2m} Family... And Sit  
 {G7,2m} By Your Fireside {C,2m} Bright
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## CHORUS

- 3) Last {C,2m} Saturday Night I Got {G7,2m} Married  
 {G7,2m} Me And My Wife Settled {C,2m} Down... Now  
 {C7,2m} Me And My Wife Are {F,2m} Parted... I'm Gonna  
 {G7,2m} Take Another Stroll Up - {C,2m} town
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## CHORUS

- 4) I {C,2m} Love, Irene, God {G7,2m} Knows I Do  
 {G7,2m} Love Her 'Til The Seas Run Dry {C,2m}  
 {C7,2m} If Irene Turn Her {F,2m} Back On Me, I'm Gonna  
 {G7,2m} Take Morphine And {C,2m} Die
- 

## CHORUS 2X