Pat Alger·Tony Arata

For reasons I still wonder about, Pat Alger gave me a stage to play on when nobody else would, and Jellyroll Johnson used to back me up at every open-mic night. Regardless of reason, I am grateful to still be in their company. They don't make better players than these two, nor friends. I thank them for helping me out with this and several other songs. I also have to say that nothing can top the first time I heard Patty Loveless sing this. I rode around with the tape in my truck for hours.

HERE I AM

(Tony Arata)

Don't do it darling
Don't you dare look in there
You said you didn't want to see me
But you been looking for me everywhere
And you know that you're gonna find me
If you keep on drinking fast
'Cause honey I'm right here waitin' on you
At the bottom of your glass

Here I am — here I am
In the bourbon and the water
That burn you just like a brand
Here I am

It ain't working my darling
'Cause as hard as you may try
You keep hearing the words you told me
In every man's goodbye
And you know that you're just one step
From another love bein' gone
I know I've seen them all unravel
I've been watching you all along

And here I am — here I am
In every lie you're hearing
That burn you just like a brand
Here I am

Darling, I got over you passing me over
A long time ago
My pride was stronger when I was younger
Now I'd rather have you know
That here I am — here I am
I still carry a flame for you
Burning me like a brand
Here I am