



Long Stretch of Lonesome

Never mind this struggle
Never mind these tears I cry
Through it all I will stay humble
As I keep a watchful eye
For that sweeter change of fortune
That's closer now that it has been
Where the memories that haunt me
Are gonna someday be my friend
When that long stretch of lonesome
Comes to an end

On some crazy river
But I still have control
And I will not surrender
I'll stay true to heart and soul
For there's a sea of love awaiting
Down at the river's end
There I'll drown my sorrows
There I'll live again
When that long stretch of lonesome
Comes to an end

When that long stretch of lonesome
Finally comes to an end
My heart belonging to someone
And it will never be longing again
And the shadows that have dogged me
Since I can't remember when
Will finally give quarter to the sunlight
On my skin—when that long stretch
of lonesome comes to an end

And the shadows that have dogged me
Since I can't remember when
Will finally give quarter to the sunlight
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of lonesome comes to an end

Gary Scruggs/Tony Arata
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You never know where things will lead. When I was in college (about a hundred years ago), I wound up in a bluegrass band. My roommate was a banjo player and would have voted for Earl Scruggs for anything, anytime. I felt the same way after the education I received in this band. Many years down the road, after some confluence of events I can only wonder about, I sat in my office in Nashville with Earl's son Gary and wrote this song. I am ever grateful to call Gary my friend, and the song became the title track to an album by Patty Loveless. She graces this version of mine with her talent, my respect for which is equaled only by my gratitude for her friendship.

Milton Sledge - drums
Scott Kinsey - bass
Russ Pahl - pedal steel
George Marinelli, Jr. - electric guitar
Barry Walsh - piano, B-3
Patty Loveless - guest vocal
Tony Arata - acoustic guitar