

Pat Alger·Tony Arata



I will be the first to admit that without this song there might not have been the others. Ironically it was the very first thing I ever had recorded after we moved here. More ironic, perhaps, is how prophetic these words have become by virtue of circumstance, not some grand design on my part at the time of their creation. What has happened since then could have been no more anticipated than it could be re-created. My one brush with being right was pure chance, as it were.

I met the gentleman who cut it at an open-mic songwriter's show at Douglas Corner. Garth and Sandy had moved from Oklahoma about the same time Jaymi and I came up from Georgia. We were both doing whatever we could to stay in Nashville, trying to get our songs heard by anybody. The only folks listening, however, were other songwriters as no one else was usually at our shows. And so it was at one of those nights at the Bluebird, Garth heard this one and swore if he ever got a record deal, he was going to do it. Well, he did, and he did. I will always be grateful that it was a song-writer who made this one his own. The song was doubly blessed because it was also produced by a song-writer, Allen Reynolds. It is presented as it began: with a guitar and a vocal and a song.

THE DANCE

(Tony Arata)

Lookin' back
On the memory of
The dance we shared
Beneath the stars above
When for a moment
All the world was right
How could I have known
That you'd ever say goodbye

And now I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end
The way it all would go
Our lives Are better left to chance
I could have missed the pain
But I'd have had to miss the dance

Holding you I held everything
For a moment
Wasn't I the king
If I had only known
How the king would fall
Hey now who's to say
You know I might have changed it all

So now, I'm glad I didn't know
The way it all would end
The way it all would go
Our lives are better left to chance
I could have missed the pain
But I'd have had to miss the dance

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