

Dirty Pennies
Erik Petersen

Dirty Pennies

Intro:

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e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----0-----0-----0-----|
D|-----0---0-----0---0-----0---0-----|
A|-----|
E|----3-----2-----0-----|
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e|-----|
B|-----3-----3-----|
G|-----|
D|-----0-----|
A|----0---2---3-----2--0-----2--0-----|
E|-----3-----|
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G D/F# Em
In a small town where all knew all
C G D
Wandered a peasant lady nobody knew
G D/F# Em
But her only friend was a young boy
C G D
Brought her hot tea and leftover stew
G D/F# Em
In those burning wintry Decembers
C G D
Heâ€™d pick dirty pennies up off the cold street
G D/F# Em
And while his mother was out Christmas shopping,
Am D G
Heâ€™d say, â€œCome on in, warm your feet

G D Dsus (2x) C9 D Dsus (2x)

G D/F# Em
As long as you share with me stories.â€•
C G D
So she spoke, â€œIâ€™m a product of war.
G D/F# Em
My mother never knew who she could be
C G D
As my father lay drunk on the floor.â€•
G D/F# Em
And she spoke of the cart that she wheeled
C G D
Had keys with no locks and guitars with no strings

G **D/F#** **Em**
And a puzzle that could never be finished

Am **D** **G**
This is my home, these broken things

G **D/F#** **Em** **C**
Ah, but the boy went on to be taught in the schools
G **D/F#** **G/B** **C9**
To not talk to strangers, and donâ€™t feed the fools

G **D/F#** **G/B** **C9**
Grew older and further and of her, forgot

G **D** **Bm** **C9**
As she was forced to move from lot to lot to lot

G **D/F#** **Em** **C**
G **D/F#** **G/B** **C9** (2x)

G **D/F#** **Em**
She said, â€œI guess it was much in his nature

C **G** **D**
To become an enforcer of law.

G **D/F#** **Em**
My old friendâ€™s got a gun to protect me

C **G** **D**
From the rock-tossing drunks from the bars

G **D/F#** **Em**
Always seemed like the sort to help others

C **G** **D**
So Iâ€™ll find him while heâ€™s on the beat

G **D/F#** **Em**
And say, remember me, Iâ€™m the old lady

Am **D** **G**
Youâ€™d give me pennies youâ€™d find on the street.â€•

G **D/F#** **Em**
When she found him, she saw not the young boy

C **G** **D**
Who dug for the roots of her junk

G **D/F#** **Em** **Em**
She came face to face with a stern, vacant soldier

C **G** **D**
Grinninâ€™ and spinninâ€™ a club

G **D/F#** **Em**
He said, â€œDonâ€™t you know that you canâ€™t be here?

C **G** **D**
Youâ€™ll hurt business, and scare away the kids.

G **D/F#** **Em**
Go wander around in some other town

Am **D** **G**
Get out or Iâ€™m taking you in.â€•

G D/F# Em C
 "But officer, I fondly remember you,
G D/F# G/B C9
 Young boy who would give me the leftover stew
G D/F# G/B C9
 And would take me inside to the warm fire coals.
G D G/B C9
 Those hundreds of pennies bought me all these clothes.

G D/F# Em C
G D/F# G/B C9 (2x)

G D/F# Em
 It's against the law to peddle
C G D
 It's against the law to eat
G D/F# Em
 It's against the law to have nothing more
C G D
 Than the shoes, full of holes, on your feet
G D/F# Em
 And now they put bars across the park benches
C G D
 So I guess it's illegal to sleep.
G D/F# Em
 They buried something inside of you, officer
Am D G
 Into your cold heart, dig deep

G D/F# Em C
 And you'll see that it's me
G D/F# G/B C9
 And here I'll be, nothing new to me.
G D/F# G/B C9
 I'll be heartbroken and cold, frozen and alone.
G D G/B C9
 My coffin was a dumpster and they didn't even know.

G D/F# Em C
 But while out on the beat, he looked down to his feet,
G D/F# G/B C9
 And he saw a dirty penny heads up at his feet
G D/F# Em
 And it made him think of an old tall tale
Am D G
 Of a woman who pushed a round a cart

G D/F# Em
 And the boy who fed her and helped her
C G D
 Knew he should have deep in his heart
G D/F# Em
 Oh, where did he hear that old tall tale?

C

G

D

But hey, what a story to spread

So he told it to his own growing boy

Once in a while before bed

Outro:

G **D** **Dsus** (2x) **C9**

D **Dsus** (2x)