

Lydia  
Slaid Cleaves

Key of Eb, capo 1, play in D

D / G / Bm / A

D G Bm A  
Lydie lit a cigarette today  
D G Bm A  
Ancient fumbling fingers in her way  
G Bm A G  
From a forty year old coffee cup she sipped a bit of gin  
Bm A G  
Closed her eyes and let the memories in.

D G Bm A  
She lives in the old place all alone,  
D G Bm A  
Keeps in touch with neighbors by the phone  
G Bm A G  
Grows roses on the graves of her firstborn and his father  
Bm A G  
And the coal trucks never bother her

Chorus

D Bm A G  
Oh Lydie, let him go the boy is gone  
Bm A G  
Her mother struggled as she tore him from her arms  
D Bm A G  
Oh Lydia your tears are heaven's rain  
Bm A G  
But she never was the same

D G Bm A  
A cotton dress and satin shoes  
D G Bm A  
Indian summer sun, dressed in amber hues  
G Bm A G  
Spending time with a coal miner's son  
Bm A G  
To an old time fiddle tune

D G Bm A  
The months went by just like a breeze that year,  
D G Bm A  
They wed in June, and by the fall the boy was here

**G** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Word come down from Big Stone, thereâ€™s a fire in the mine  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
And eleven men they couldnâ€™t find

Chorus

**D** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Oh Lydie, let him go the boy is gone  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
Her mother struggled as she tore him from her arms  
**D** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Oh Lydia your tears are heavenâ€™s rain  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
But she never was the same

Break

**D** **G** **Bm** **A**  
She watched them pull him from the hole,  
**D** **G** **Bm** **A**  
The overalls he wore were blackened by the smoke,  
**G** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Lydie twice had had this dream and twice it had come true  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
And when she saw his fatherâ€™s boots she knew.

Chorus

**D** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Oh Lydie, let him go the boy is gone  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
Her mother struggled as she tore him from her arms  
**D** **Bm** **A** **G**  
Oh Lydia your tears are heavenâ€™s rain  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
But she never was the same

**D** **G** **Bm** **A**  
Lydie lit a cigarette today  
**D** **G** **Bm** **A**  
Ancient fumbling fingers in her way  
**G** **Bm** **A** **G**  
From a forty year old coffee cup she sipped a bit of gin  
**Bm** **A** **G**  
Closed her eyes and let the memories in.