

# Shades Of Gray

Robert Earl Keen

We made Oklahoma a little after 3  
Randy, his brother Bob and my old GMC  
We had some moonshine whisky  
And some of Bob's homegrown  
We were so messed up we didn't know  
If we were drunk or stoned  
Randy was a sad-sack, tall kinda frail  
Bob was a raving maniac, crazy in the head  
They been kicked out of high school several years ago  
For pushin over port-a-cans at the 4-H rodeo  
Since then they've done their little dance  
Right outside the law  
Popped twice in Oklahoma, once in Arkansas  
And I don't know what possessed me  
To want to tag along  
Cause I was raised a Christian  
And I knew right from wrong

Right or wrong, black or white  
Cross the line, you're gonna pay  
In the dawn before the light  
Live and die by the shades of gray

We stole two Charolais heifers from  
Randy's sweetheart's paw  
Sold them at the livestock sale  
Outside of Wichita

We got \$900 and never did suspect  
The world of hurt we'd be in once  
We cashed that check  
Next day we heard the story  
On the local radio  
Made our plans that very night  
To go to Mexico  
I swear we would have made it  
If it wasn't for that shine  
I got sick about the time we crossed  
That Kansas line

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I was layin in the bar ditch  
Prayin I would die  
When a light come on above us  
And a voice come from the sky  
A half a dozen unmarked cars  
Came screeching to a halt  
They grabbed bob, he started screamin  
It was all my fault

There were men and dogs  
And helicopter buzzin all around  
They had the brothers on the

Pickup hood and me down on the ground  
Bob flew all to pieces but randy he  
Held tight when a black man in a  
Suit and tie stepped out into the light  
He told his men to turn us loose  
They put down their guns  
He said these are just some  
Sorry kids, they ain't the ones

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They left us by the roadside  
Down hearted and alone  
Randy got behind the wheel  
Said boys I'm going home  
We turned around to face our fate  
Downhearted but alive on that  
Mornin in late April, Oklahoma, 1995

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