

THE GIFT

Ian Tyson

Verse 1.

C **F** **C**
IN OLD ST. LOUIS OVER IN MISSOURI
F **C** **Bb** **G**
THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI IT ROLLS AND FLOWS
C **F** **C**
A SON WAS BORN TO MARY RUSSELL
F **C** **G** **C**
AND IT STARTS THE LEGEND EVERY COWBOY KNOWS

Verse 2.

C **F** **C**
YOUNG KID RUSSELL HE WAS BORN TO WANDER
F **C** **Bb** **G**
EVER WESTWARD HE WAS BOUND TO ROAM
C **F** **C**
JUST A KID OF SIXTEEN IN 1880
C **G** **C**
UP IN WILD MONTANA HE FOUND HIS HOME

Chorus:

C **Am** **C**
GOD MADE MONTANA FOR THE WILD MAN
Am **Am7** **Dm**
FOR THE PEIGON AND SIOUX AND CROW
C
BUT HE SAVED HIS GREATEST GIFT FOR CHARLIE
Dm **C**
Said get her all down before she goes---Charlie
Dm **C**
YOU GOTTA GET HER ALL DOWN CAUSE SHE'S BOUND TO GO

Verse 3.

GOD HUNG THE STARS OVER JUDITH BASIN
GOD PUT THE MAGIC IN YOUNG CHARLIE'S HAND
ALL WAS SEEN AND ALL REMEMBERED
EVERY SHINING MOUNTAIN EVERY LONGHORN BRAND

Verse 4.

HE COULD PAINT THE LIGHT ON HORSEHIDE SHINING
GREAT PASSING HERDS OF THE BUFFALO
AND A COWCAMP COLD ON A RAINY MORNING
AND THE TWISTING WRIST OF THE HOULIHAN THROW

Repeat Chorus:

Verse 5.

WHEN THE LORD CALLED CHARLIE TO HIS HOME UP YONDER
HE SAID KID RUSSELL I GOT A JOB FOR YOU
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF SUNSETS IN OLD MONTANA
CAUSE I CAN'T PAINT THEM QUITE AS GOOD AS YOU

F **G**
AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE---WE'LL GO OUT AND HAVE A FEW

F **G**
AND NANCY RUSSELL WILL MAKE SURE IT'S JUST TWO

Repeat Chorus:

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