

Laugh as You Go

The Last Testament of Jason Dewayne Yarbrough

Once upon a time in the land where Cajuns dwell,
T'was born to a Barrett, a little man so swell.
With a smile on his face he'd help us along
As we would travel this sod with our face so long.

What a fighter he was when he would look at you;
The people who could stare him down were so very few.
For his moma raised him like the rest, and right rough;
So each new day he would face the world *dog-gone* tough.

Though tough, tough, my heart is as gentle as can be,
For moma and many others like to hold me.
And I do hug, hug as much as I am able,
For the world is better when people snuggle.

Outside, I am, looking up without any words;
Southeast Texas is my home, so I know some birds.
My Grandma Ida would let me sit on the porch,
And I would sing, sing with the doves high in the birch.

Growing up in Cajun land was kind of easy,
For my big brother Jim was always there for me.
I am so proud of him, too, as he can be seen
Protecting all the world as a big bad U.S. Marine.

Yet not all things were as peachy as I would like.
For you see not everything in me is held tight.
My step-dad L.J. was a hero holding his nose,
While I was in the backyard pool under a hose.

Or when Travis tried to help me out of the truck,
As we tumbled down, he held on like a big buck.
So whether it was a hose or tumbling row,
It didn't bother me much as I'd laugh as I go.

You know, some folks think I don't know what is up,
Because I don't have bills, worries and cannot keep up.
And, oh yeah, that's me, lying out or snuggling true,
But don't you think for one minute that I am through.

For you family, friends, and good folks must needs to know
Dat I t'was born in the heart of doz Cajun lands,
Where *not'in* not none is as it first seems to be,
For though I could not speak well, I did sure did see.

You thought you were taking care of me those long years;
I let you believe that, and gave you many cheers.
Whether it was a Pirate show or smell well spent,
You most certainly know, I did laugh as I went.

You looked out after me—that is so very true;
But in years ahead, please see, that I watched after you.
And watch you now, I will, as from heaven's white cloud,
With a good laugh—for you—I am so very proud.

Don't worry about me, for here I jump, run, and walk,
And with the good angels I can now sing and talk.
You know, I think my Cajun roots up here do shine,
For I found myself joking with Albert Einstein.

I have thought it out well and clean and true, you see,
Mom, you gave and gave, even everything to me.
So one last wish I have for you, my Mom so true,
Whenever you think of me—think of me anew.

And to all my friends who helped and struggled so true,
I give to you my last testament to help you through.
When the going gets Cajun rough, a really tough row,
Then, good friends do as I did, and laugh as you go.