

Dusty Skies

Words & Music by Cindy Walker © 1930 all rights reserved

C
Dusty skies I can't see nothing in sight;
F *C*
Good old Dan you'll have to guide me right.

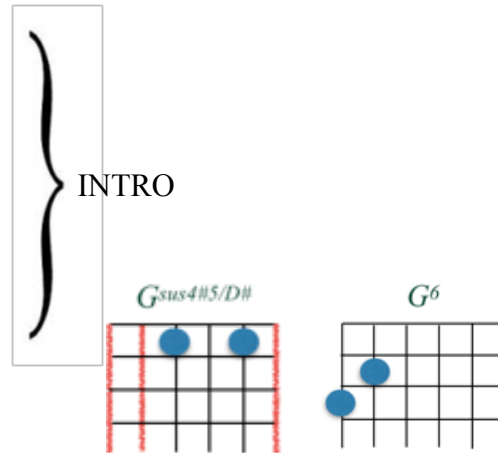
If we lose our way the cattle will stray,
F *C* *Gsus4#5/D#* *G6* *C*
And we'll lose them all tonight;
F *C*
Cause all of the grass and water's gone,
F *C*
We'll have to keep moving on.

C
Sand blowing, I just can't breathe in this air.
F *C*
I thought it would soon be clear and fair.

But dust storms played hell with land and folks as well;
F *C* *Gsus4#5/D#* *G6* *C*
Got to be moving somewhere;
F *C*
Hate to leave the old ranch so bare;
F *C*
But I've got to be moving somewhere.

C
Get along doggies, we're moving off of this range;
F *C*
I never thought as how I'd make the change.

The blue skies have failed so we're on our last trail;
F *C* *Gsus4#5/D#* *G6* *C*
Underneath these dusty skies.
F *C*
These ain't tears in my eyes,
F *C*
Just sand from these dusty skies.



Play not upon the
reddened strings.

History

Cindy Walker was the daughter of a cotton broker, born July 20, 1918, on her grandparents' farm near Mart, Texas. Inspired by newspaper accounts of the Dust Bowl, Walker wrote her first song, "**Dusty Skies**," when she was 12.

She became a prolific Texas songwriter who in every decade from the 1940s to the '80s turned out more than 650 country and pop hits, including "In the Misty Moonlight" and "Cherokee Maiden." Over the years, Walker, who typed her romantic, sentimental, Western-flavored works on a pink-trimmed manual typewriter, saw her songs recorded by artists as varied as Gene Autry ("Blue Canadian Rockies"), Roy Orbison ("Dream Baby [How Long Must I Dream]"), Bob Wills ("Cherokee Maiden," "Bubbles in My Beer"), Eddy Arnold, the Ames Brothers ("China Doll"), Hank Snow ("The Gold Rush Is Over") and Jim Reeves ("Distant Drums," and "This Is It").



She also wrote "Barstool Cowboy From Old Barstow" for Spike Jones and the City Slickers. "You Don't Know Me," one of her best-known songs, has been recorded by more than 75 singers including Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Jerry Vale, Mickey Gilley, Bette Midler and Michael Buble. Willie Nelson, a fellow Texan, released "You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker," a tribute album of her songs.

Walker, who was frequently described as the greatest living songwriter of country music, was a charter member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970. She was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1997. She died of natural causes on March 23, 2006 at a hospital in Mexia, Texas, where she had lived most of her life. She was 87.

The above is a portion of Cindy's obituary written by Dennis McLellan | March 29, 2006 | LA Times Staff Writer.



Rich Riley grew up on a farm and ranch in Northeast Colorado and says that Cindy's "Dusty Skies" lyrics and the mood the music creates accurately depict what it was like to live through times like these.

articles.latimes.com/, secondhandsongs.com, Rich Riley and Rick Larson

Cowboy Songs as you go