

# When I Was a Boy

By Dar Williams

I won't forget when Peter Pan came to my house, took my hand  
I said I was a boy; I'm glad he didn't check.  
I learned to fly, I learned to fight  
I lived a whole life in one night  
We saved each other's lives out on the pirate's deck.  
And I remember that night  
When I'm leaving a late night with some friends  
And I hear somebody tell me it's not safe, someone should help me  
I need to find a nice man to walk me home.  
When I was a boy, I scared the pants off of my mom,  
Climbed what I could climb upon  
And I don't know how I survived,  
I guess I knew the tricks that all boys knew.  
And you can walk me home, but I was a boy, too.  
I was a kid that you would like, just a small boy on her bike  
Riding topless, yeah, I never cared who saw.  
My neighbour come outside to say, "Get your shirt,"  
I said "No way, it's the last time I'm not breaking any law."  
And now I'm in a clothing store, and the sign says less is more  
More that's tight means more to see, more for them, not more for me  
That can't help me climb a tree in ten seconds flat  
When I was a boy, see that picture? That was me  
Grass-stained shirt and dusty knees

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And I know things have gotta change,  
They got pills to sell, they've got implants to put in, they've got implants to  
remove  
But I am not forgetting  
That I was a boy too  
And like the woods where I would creep, it's a secret I can keep  
Except when I'm tired, except when I'm being caught off guard  
I've had a lonesome awful day, the conversation finds its way  
To catching fire-flies out in the backyard.  
And I tell the man I'm with about the other life I lived  
And I say now you're top gun, I have lost and you have won  
And he says, "Oh no, no, can't you see  
When I was a girl, my mom and I we always talked  
And I picked flowers everywhere that I walked.  
And I could always cry, now even when I'm alone I seldom do  
And I have lost some kindness  
But I was a girl too.  
And you were just like me, and I was just like you."

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