

## PAPER DOLL AND THE VELVET CRUTCH My Story

I recall that I had to be lifted on to the goat fence because I had not yet built back the strength in my left leg to climb up by myself. I was three. My older sisters were in school so my mom and I spent lots of time together. On this day we had walked up North Road from the farm to visit a neighbor lady. Mrs. Moulton sat at the kitchen table having coffee with mom. I went out the back door and down the steps of a little wooden porch landing and for some reason decided to crawl under the porch. I knelt down hard on a jagged broken glass bottle. It was bad. Mom came running. No one had a car so mom called her best friend Ruth who lived about a mile away. Mom and Mrs. Moulton wrapped my leg tight in towels trying to stop the bleeding. Ruth drove us up to Main Street to old Doc Freeman's brick house. He used some kind of surgical stapler to close the wound that had cut my knee in half. Apparently the wound was too big to stitch. He told mom he wasn't sure about the extent of the damage or if I'd be able to walk normally. Only time would tell. They bandaged it up tight so that I couldn't bend my knee. I was so little there were no crutches that small. My dad carved and whittled a crutch out of a tree branch. You know where the branch makes a fork? That was the part that went under my arm. He sanded it smooth like velvet and painted it barn red. Time passed with more doctor visits. Finally the metal clamp staples were removed. Many clinks as the doctor dropped them one by one into the stainless steel bowl. On my album cover you can see how my left leg is much thinner than my right. Eventually I was allowed to begin exercising. I spent many days lifting one of those old fashioned irons we had used for a door stop as a weight. The iron was tied to a rope that went over a door knob that was tied to my ankle. A very ingenious contraption. Up and down back and forth bend and straighten. After awhile I was enrolled in dance classes as part of my therapy. But from this incident came something ultimately very joyful. We had a lady who played the piano for our dance classes. Live music. On the last page of my album liner notes, I've included a recital picture of me after taking dance lessons that first year. I gave my album the title of Paper Doll because to me it represents the fragility of the innermost child, the spirit of which still exists in the deepest core of all of us. I am reminded of that sweet, unbroken, untested child. When we are broken, because at various times in our lives we all surely are, it is in the healing and survival that we celebrate. It makes me think of the Japanese practice of honoring the beauty of the broken ceramic object by repairing it with gold (Kintsugi). Paper Doll represents that first scar. I have many scars seen and unseen that are like that gold. When I met my husband I think we recognized each other's gold. He had survived polio as a child. I dedicate this album to him.



## Stardust

And now the purple dusk of twilight time Steals across the meadows of my heart High up in the sky the little stars climb Always reminding me that we're apart You wandered down the lane and far away Leaving me a song that will not die Love is now the stardust of yesterday The music of the years gone by Sometimes I wonder why I spend The lonely night dreaming of a song The melody haunts my reverie And I am once again with you When our love was new And each kiss an inspiration But that was long ago And now my consolation Is in the stardust of a song Beside the garden wall When stars are bright You are in my arms The nightingale tells his fairytale Of paradise where roses bloom Though I dream in vain In my heart it will remain My stardust melody A memory of love's refrain © Hoagy Carmichael -Emi Mills Music Inc., Mitchell Parish- Songs Of Peer Ltd, Emi Mills Music Inc

Stardust (5:50)
ISRC QMFHJ1300057
Arranger-Pete Levin
Piano-Pete Levin
Strings-Saugerties Philharmonic
Bass-Pete Levin
Clarinet-Evan Christopher
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Mitchell Parish, Songs Of Peer, LTD

## That's What Crazy Lovers Do (Album Version)

My baby is long gone My blues been swept away I had a stormy dark cloud before me Now the sun is out and here to stay (Let me tell you my story) He was a charmer, a lyin' cheat A handsome devil in disguise He knew what to say to sweep me off my feet Oh baby I believed his lyin' eyes My friends say leopards don't change their spots But I don't know what they mean I only know when I feel his touch I feel like berries in a bowl of cream Hey wait a second someone's at my door A rat tat tat what should I do Guess I'll forgive him cause he's back for more Cause baby that's what crazy lovers do (Solo scat along with me on the next page) When it comes to lovin' you best beware And keep both feet on the ground If you give in to that burnin' flame You won't be standin' you'll be lyin down My baby came back now And I'm no longer blue Each time I kiss him Reminds me how I miss my baby That's what crazy lovers do That's what crazy lovers do

That's What Crazy Lovers Do (Album Version) (3:02)

ISRC QMFHJ1300059

Arranger-Pete Levin

Piano, Bass-Pete Levin

Drums-Joel Rosenblatt

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