

LOUISE #1

[Turns off the radio and addresses the audience.] Now the first time I ever heard Patsy Cline sing it wasn't on the Grand Ole Opry. No, the first time I ever heard Patsy Cline sing she was in my livin' room and I was in the kitchen. That was in January 19 and 57. See, I was never a big fan of the Arthur Godfrey Show, [as Arthur Godfrey] "How are ya? How are ya?" Yuk! But my kids, Donna, and David, they were three and five, Lord, they were. Just about every morning there they'd be waitin' for the Arthur Godfrey morning show. I was usually right here in the kitchen doing the breakfast dishes, see. We had this big ol' Muntz black and white TV, and they'd lie there in the livin' room with their feet stuck underneath it staring straight up. [LOUISE does a pose as one of the kids staring up at the TV] Well this mornin', I was doin' the dishes, as usual, but subconsciously, I was listening to that television. When all of a sudden, I heard this voice that absolutely stopped me in my tracks. I said, " My God, that sounds like I've always wanted to sing." So, I threw the spoons and forks in the kitchen sink and went tearing into the living room to see who it was. I said, "Get outta my way kids." and I looked and there was this chunky little country girl leaning back and leadin' into a wonderful country song called "Walkin' After Midnight" and I'll tell you I have never heard a voice that impressed me so.

LOUISE #2

That TV audience went wild. Then Godfrey said, "Well, little lady, I hope that record sells like hotcakes." And then Patsy said, "I just hope it sells like records." And it did! Well, she must have been on that show every morning for about two weeks, and every morning you would find me and those kids right in front of that TV, waiting. [She does the "TV pose" again as if she is watching the TV staring up, just like the kids, mesmerized] One day, Godfrey said "Now here's a little girl from Virginia that I think you're going to be hearing a lot from." Then she just dropped out of sight. But I never forgot that voice and I never forgot the feeling it gave me.

By 1961, I was divorced, Yahoo!, hallelujah! [To audience member] Yeah, I bet some of y'all know that feelin'! And I had taken a job as an electronics technician. Well, we can't all be hairdressers! Anyway, the man I worked for loved country music, and he used to keep the radio in the lab tuned to KIKK, one of our leading country music stations in Houston, kinda like 107.7 is here. Are y'all from around here? Anyway, one day I was doing my work, as usual, but subconsciously I was listening to that radio. When all of a sudden I heard that voice again and it absolutely stopped me in my tracks. Well they didn't say who it was, so I called the radio station to find out and they said, "That was Patsy Cline singing "I Fall to Pieces." Well, I called Hal Harris, the local disc jockey, right while he was on the air [LOUISE crosses SL with coffee cup] and I said, "HEY [Very Bossy], you play that one again for me.", and he did.

LOUISE #3

One morning about two years later, I was driving to work and as usual I was waiting for Hal Harris to play my favorite Patsy Cline record [Musical tag of Faded Love ends here]. Instead, they come on the radio and said that Patsy Cline had been killed in an airplane crash on her way back to Nashville. She was thirty years old. It had only been six years since I first heard Patsy sing on the Arthur Godfrey show. That Saturday night I tuned in my radio to a live broadcast of the Grand Ole Opry.

They had a silent prayer for Patsy and the others who died in the crash. And then the Jordanaires came out on that very same stage where Patsy had performed so many times and sang that beautiful old hymn, "How Great Thou Art".

That's been a long time ago, but I still call that radio station and I still ask them to play Patsy Cline for me. And as I look at the letters that she wrote to me, I remember... and I know she meant it when she signed each and every one of them Love...Always...Patsy Cline.

