

GOOD NIGHT IRENE – Huddie 'Lead Belly' Ledbetter

CHORUS:

Irene good night. Irene, good night.

Good night, Irene. Good night, Irene. I'll see you in my dreams.

Last Saturday night I got married, me and my wife settle down.

Now me and my wife have parted.

I'm gonna take a little stroll downtown.

CHORUS

Some times I live in the country, some times I live in town

Some times I take a great notion – to jump into the river and
drown.

CHORUS

Stop your rambling, stop your gambling. Stop staying out late at
night

Go home to your wife and family, stay home by the fireside bright.

CHORUS

One more time!

CHORUS

Per Wikipedia, the specific origins of "Irene" are unclear. Lead Belly was singing a version of the song as early as 1908, which he claimed to have learned from his uncles Terrell and Bob.

Lead Belly continued performing the song during his various prison terms. A few months prior to his release in 1934 he recorded a number of his songs, including "Irene", for the Library of Congress.