

NELLY · KUMAMOTO, JAPAN

五木の子守唄 (Itsuki no Komoriuta)

Key: Am

~54 BPM

Guitar & Piano

VERSE 1

Am **Dm** **Am**
Sleep now, little one, the mountain wind is still,
Dm **Am** **E7**
far from home I sing to you, my heart upon this hill.

VERSE 2

Am **Dm** **Am**
Someday I'll return to the house where I was born,
Dm **Am** **E7**
till then my song will rock you gently until dawn.

Am

Itsuki no Komoriuta comes from Itsuki, a small mountain village in Kumamoto Prefecture. In the poorer years of old Japan, girls as young as seven or eight were sent away from their families to work as nursemaids for wealthier households. Far from home and often lonely, they sang to the babies in their care — and, without meaning to, sang about their own longing too. Their private sorrow became one of the most tender lullabies in Japanese folk tradition.

Traditional Japanese lullaby style from Itsuki Village. The English lyrics are an original singable arrangement written as a tribute to this history, not a literal translation of the historical Japanese text.

© Lullaby for Kids — lullabyforkids.com/itsuki-no-komoriuta/ — for personal, non-commercial use