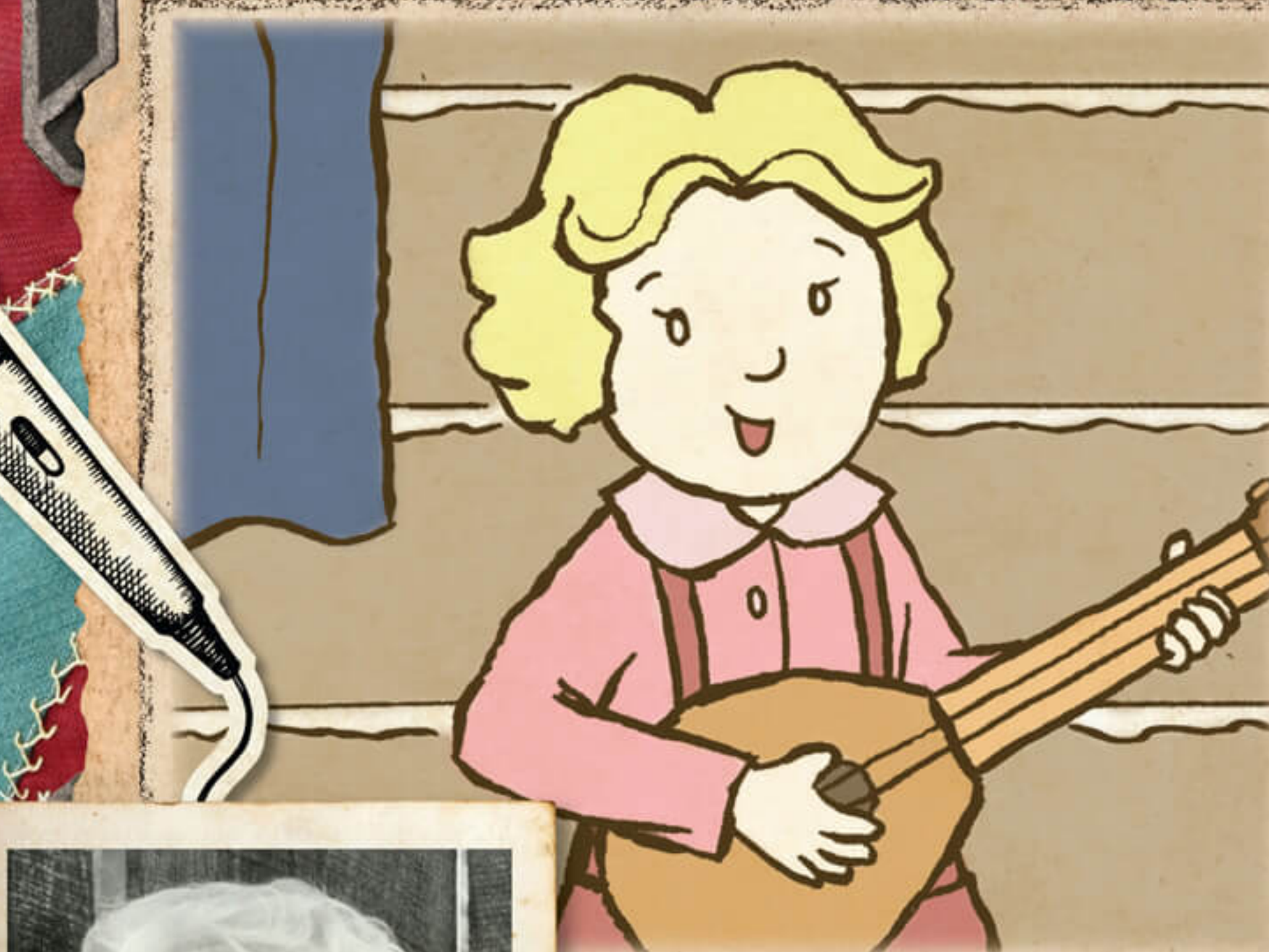


Before They Were Famous

Dolly Parton



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Early Years

The country church looked like a very big place. And all the people filling it up made it look even bigger.



The little girl standing at the front didn't mind that. Her grandfather was the **preacher** in that church. And soon he would be speaking again to the congregation. But for now, everyone was looking at the little girl with blond curls and green eyes. And that suited her just fine.

Six-year-old Dolly Parton was about to sing.



Dolly Parton

Fun Facts

In addition to his preaching, Dolly's grandfather, Jake Robert Owens, also wrote and performed music.



Dolly had been born in a one-room cabin on the Pigeon River in East Tennessee. Her family was so poor that the doctor who delivered her was paid with a sack of cornmeal. And Dolly joked later that the ants felt so sorry for her family that they would bring back any food they took from their home by mistake.



Tennessee



HOME

❖ Sweet ❖

HOME



replica of Dolly Parton's childhood Smoky Mountain home

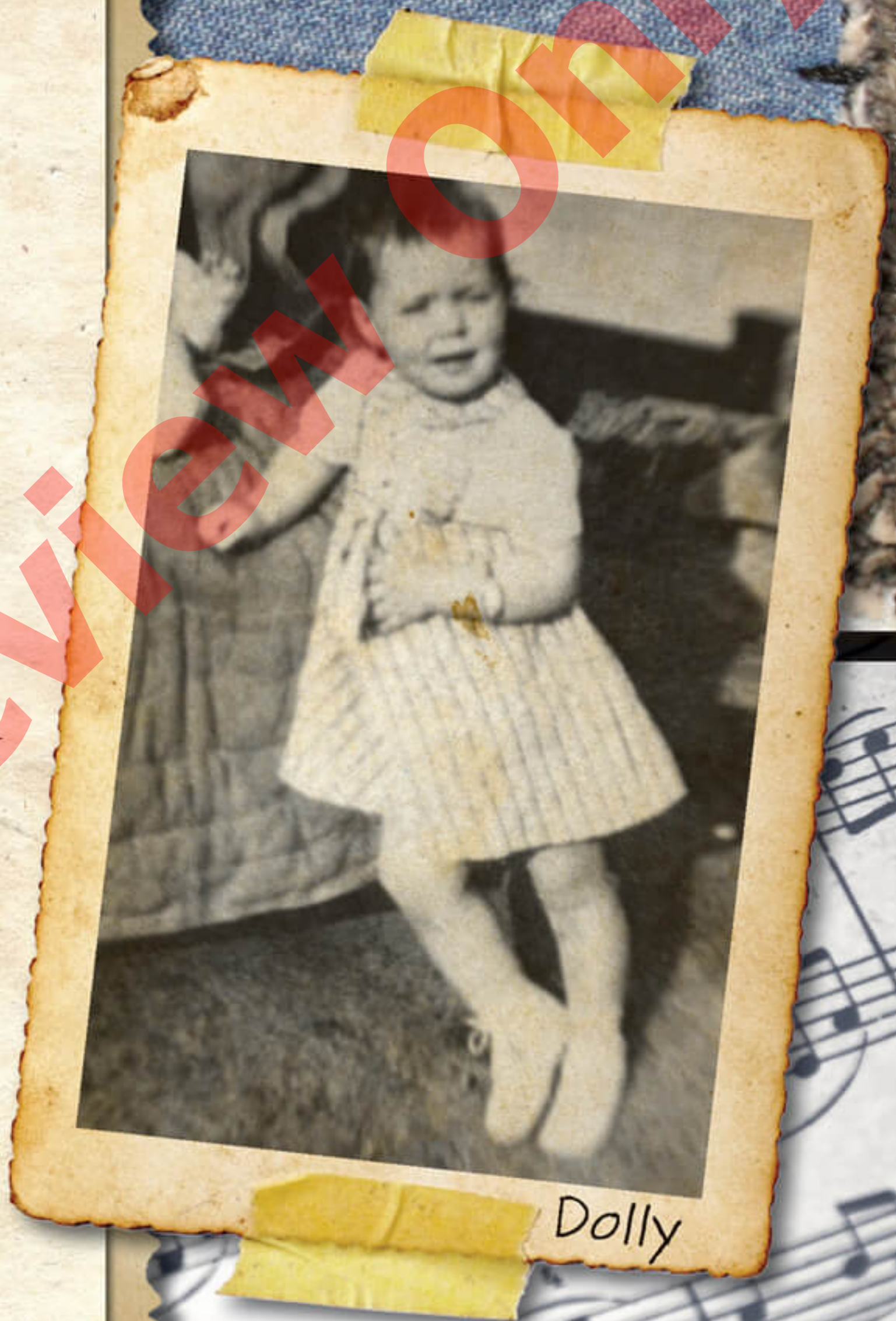
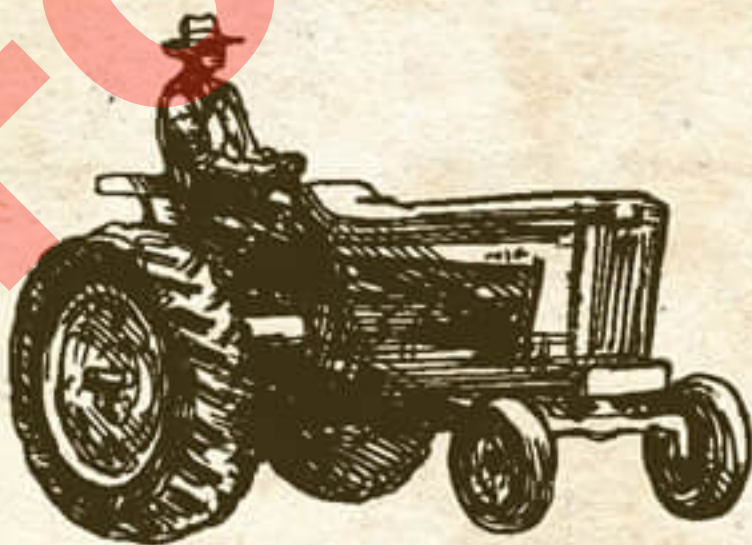


Fun Facts

Dolly's first home didn't have electricity, running water, or an indoor bathroom.

Making Music

Dolly was the fourth of twelve children, six boys and six girls. Her father Lee was a **sharecropper**, farming someone else's land in return for a share of the crops. But not a very large share.



Her mother Avie Lee came from a musical family. She often sang old folk songs as she went about her household chores.

And with twelve children to care for, she never ran out of reasons to sing.



Fun Facts

Dolly loved to read so much that she would read anything and everything she could find, from the Bible to old newspaper pages that were stuffed into the house walls for insulation.