

Sonora's Death Row

Dave Alvin

Me and the boy's we cinched up our saddles and rode to
sonora last night
Gun's hanging proud, daring out loud for any one
looking to fight
Card cheats and rustlers would run for their holes when
the boys from the old broken O
Rode up and reined on the street that they named
Sonora's death row

Mescal is free at Amanda's saloon for the boy's from
the old broken O
Saturday nights in the town of Sonora are the best in
all Mexico
They've got guitars and trumpets and sweet señoritas
who won't want to let you go
You'd never believe such a gay happy time on the street
called Sonora's death row

Inside Amanda's we was a dancin' with all of Amanda's
gals
I won some silver at seven card stud so I was out doin'
my pals
But the whiskey and mescal, peso cigars drove me
outside for some air
Somebody whispered "Your life or your money", I reached
but my gun wasn't there

I woke up face down in Amanda's back alley aware of the
fool I had been
Rushed to my pony, grabbed my Winchester and entered
Amanda's again
Where I saw my partners twirling my pistols and
throwing my money around
Blinded by anger, I jacked the lever and one of them
fell to the ground
Amanda's got silent like night in the desert, my
friends stared in pure disbelief

Amanda was kneeling beside the dead cowboy plainly
expressing her grief
And as I bowed my head a trembled shot through me my
six-gun was still at my side
I felt my pockets, there was my money, I fell to my
knees and I cried
A nightmare of mescal is all that it was for no one had
robbed me at all
I wish I was dreaming the sound of the gallows they're
testing just outside
The wall

The mescal's still free at Amanda's saloon for the
boy's from the old Broken O
I'd give a ransom to drink there today and be free of
Sonora's death row
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Sonora's death row
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