

# Prison Trilogy (billy Rose)

Joan Baez

- G** **Hmi**  
1. Billy Rose was a low rider, Billy Rose was a night fighter  
**Ami** **Hmi** **D**  
Billy knew trouble like the sound of his own name  
**Ami** **C**  
Busted on a drunken charge driving someone else's car  
**Cmi** **G**  
The local midnight sheriffs claim to fame
2. In an Arizona jail there are some who tell the tale how  
Billy fought the sergeant for some milk that he demanded  
Knowing they'd remain the boss, knowing he would pay the cost  
They saw he was severely reprimanded
- Emi** **Hmi**  
R: In the blackest cell on "A" Block  
**Emi** **Hmi**  
He hanged himself at dawn  
**Emi** **Hmi**  
With a note stuck to the bunk head  
**Ami** **D**  
Don't mess with me, just take me home
- Emi** **D** **G**  
Come lay, help us lay young Billy down
3. Luna was a Mexican the law called an alien  
For coming across the border with a baby and a wife  
Though the clothes upon his back were wet still he thought  
That he could get some money and things to start a life
4. It hadn't been too very long when it seemed like everything went wrong  
They didn't even have the time to find themselves a home  
This foreigner, a brown-skin male thrown into a Texas jail  
It left the wife and baby quite alone
- R: He eased the pain inside him  
With a needle in his arm  
But the dope just crucified him  
He died to no one's great alarm
- Come lay, help us lay young Luna down  
Were gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground
5. Kilowatt was an aging con of 65 who stood a chance to stay alive  
And leave the joint and walk the streets again  
As the time he was to leave drew near he suffered all the joy and fear  
Of leaving 35 years in the pen
6. And on the day of his release he was approached by the police  
Who took him to the warden walking slowly by his side  
The warden said "You won't remain here but it seems a state retainer  
claims another 10 years of your life"
- R: He stepped out in the Texas sunlight  
The cops all stood around  
Old Kilowatt ran 50 yards

Then threw himself on the ground

They may as well just laid the old man down  
And we're gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground  
Help us raze the prisons to the ground