

# Don't Take Your Guns to Town

Johnny Cash

A young cowboy named Billy Joe grew restless on the farm  
A boy filled with wonderlust who really meant no harm  
He changed his clothes and shined his boots  
And combed his dark hair down  
And his mother cried as he walked out

Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town

He laughed and kissed his mom  
And said your Billy Joe's a man  
I can shoot as quick and straight as anybody can  
But I wouldn't shoot without a cause  
I'd gun nobody down  
But she cried again as he rode away

Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town

He sang a song as on he rode  
His guns hung at his hips  
He rode into a cattle town  
A smile upon his lips  
He stopped and walked into a bar  
And laid his money down  
But his mother's words echoed again

Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town

He drank his first strong liquor then to calm his shaking hand  
And tried to tell himself he had become a man  
A dusty cowpoke at his side began to laugh him down  
And he heard again his mothers words

Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town

Filled with rage then  
Billy Joe reached for his gun to draw  
But the stranger drew his gun and fired  
Before he even saw  
As Billy Joe fell to the floor  
The crowd all gathered 'round  
And wondered at his final words

Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town