

## Johnny 99

Los Lobos

Well, they closed down the auto plant in Mahwah late last night  
Ralph went out lookin' for a job, but he couldn't find none  
He came home too drunk from mixin' Tanqueray and wine  
He got a gun, shot a night clerk, now they call him Johnny 99

Down in the part of town where you hit a red light, you don't s  
top  
Johnny is wavin' his gun around and threatenin' to blow his top  
When an off-duty cop snuck up on him from behind  
Out in front of the Club Tip Top they slapped the cuffs on John  
ny 99

Well, the city supplied a public defender  
But the judge was Mean John Brown  
He came into the courtroom  
And stared poor Johnny down  
"Well, the evidence is clear, gonna let the sentence fit the cr  
ime  
Ninety-eight and a year, we'll call it even, Johnny 99"

Fistfight broke out in the courtroom  
They had to drag Johnny's girl away  
His mama stood up and shouted  
"Judge, don't take my boy this way"  
"Well, son, you got a statement you'd like to make  
Before the bailiff comes and forever take you away?"

"Now, judge, judge, I had no debts no honest man could pay  
The bank was holdin' my mortgage, they were takin' my house awa  
y  
Now I ain't sayin' that makes me an innocent man  
But it was more than all this that put that gun in my hand

"Well, your honor, I do believe I'd be better off dead  
And if you can take a man's life for the thoughts that's in his  
head  
Then won't you sit back in that chair and think it over, judge,  
one more time?  
Let 'em shave off my hair and put me on the execution line"