Johnny 99

Ryan Adams

Well they closed down the auto plant in Mahwah late last month
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 when you hit a red light, you do
n't stop
Johnny's 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 TipTop, they slapped the cuffs on John
ny 99

Well, the city supplied a public defender, but the judge was Me
an John Brown
He came into the courtroom and stared poor Johnny down
Well, the evidence is clear, gonna let the sentence, son, fit t
he crime
Prison for ninety-
eight and a year and we'll call it even, Johnny 99

A fist fight broke out in the courtroom, they had to drag Johnn
y's girl away
His mama stood up and shouted, "Judge, don't take my boy this w
ay"
"Well, son, you got any statement you'd like to make
Before the bailiff comes to forever take you away?"

Now, judge, judge, I got debts no honest man could pay
The bank was holdin' my mortgage and takin' my house away
Now I ain't sayin' that made 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?
And let 'em shave off my hair and put me on that execution line

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