

# Murder in the Red Barn

Tom Waits

There was a murder in the red barn  
Murder in the red barn

The trees are bending over  
The cows are lying down  
The autumn's taking over  
You can hear the buckshot hounds  
The watchman said to Reba the loon  
Was it pale at Manzanita  
Or Blind Bob the raccoon?  
Pin it on a drifter  
They sleep beneath the bridge  
One plays the violin  
And sleeps inside a fridge  
There was a murder in the red barn  
A murder in the red barn

Someone's crying in the woods  
Someone's burying all his clothes  
Now Slam the Crank from Wheezer  
Slept outside last night and froze  
Road kill has its seasons  
Just like anything  
It's possums in the autumn  
And it's farm cats in the spring  
There was a murder in the red barn  
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Now thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house  
Or covet thy neighbor's wife  
But for some  
Murder is the only door through which they enter life

Now they surrounded the house  
They smoke him out  
They took him off in chains  
The sky turned black and bruised  
And we had months of heavy rains  
Now the raven's nest in the rotted roof  
Of Chenoweth's old place  
And no one's asking Cal  
About that scar upon his face  
'Cause there's nothin' strange  
About an axe with bloodstains in the barn

There's always some killin'  
You got to do around the farm  
A murder in the red barn  
Murder in the red barn

Now the woods will never tell  
What sleeps beneath the trees  
Or what's buried 'neath a rock  
Or hiding in the leaves  
'Cause road kill has it's seasons  
Just like anything  
It's possums in the autumn

And it's farm cats in the spring  
A murder in the red barn  
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Now a lady can't do n'tohin'  
Without folks' tongues waggin'  
Is this blood on the tree  
Or is it autumn's red blaze  
When the ground's soft for diggin'  
And the rain will bring all this gloom  
There's nothing wrong with a lady  
Drinking alone in her room  
But there was a murder in the red barn  
A murder in the red barn