

Trad American Songs

Book 3 for the Slow Jam Session

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Alberta, Alberta

**Alberta, Alberta, where'd you stay last night?
Alberta, Alberta, where'd you stay last night?
Come home this morning, when the sun was shining bright.**

**I love you Alberta, tell the world I do.
I love you Alberta, tell the world I do.
But you mistreat me, nothing that you say rings true.**

**I've got a bird that whistles, I've got a bird that sings x2
But if I don't have Alberta, life don't mean a thing.**

**Alberta, Alberta, where you been so long? x2
Ain't had no loving, since you've been gone.**

**Alberta, Alberta, girl, you're on my mind. x2
When I think about you, can't keep from crying.**

**Alberta, Alberta, you don't treat me right x2
You know I love you, but you stay out all night.**

**Alberta, Alberta, where did you stay last night x2
Your hair's all tangled, nothing seems to fit you right.**

Allons à Lafayette

**Allons à Lafayette c'est pour changer ton nom
On va t'appeler madame, Madame Canaille Comeaux
Petite, t'es trop mignonne, pour faire ta criminelle
Comment tu crois mais moi, oh oui moi tout seul.**

**Le monde parle mal de toi, tu dances mais trop collée
Tu me fais comme ça, c'est pour me faire fâché?
Allons à Lafayette, on va changer ton nom
On va t'appeler madame, Madame Canaille Comeaux.**

**Allons à Lafayette, il est temps de faire danser
Ils ont l'air de savoir danser, mais danser les haricots
On va danser toute la nuit avec mam'selle Gumbo
Tu me connais il fait trop chaud pour danser belle avec vous.**

**Let's go to Lafayette to change your name
You will be called Madame, Madame Canaille Comeaux.
You're too cute little girl, to act so mean
Why do you do that to me, my little loveable one.**

**Everyone speaks badly of you, you dance too closely
Why do you do that to me, it is just to make me angry?
Let's go to Lafayette to change your name
You will be called Madame, Madame Canaille Comeaux.**

Because I'm Jealous

**Get your rocker chair to rock, get your rubber ball to roll,
Get the man I love to satisfy my soul.**

Chorus:

*Because I'm jealous, jealous hearted me
I said I'm jealous, jealous as I can be.*

**Got a stove in the kitchen, bakes nice and brown
But I need my papa to turn the damper down. Ch.**

**You can have my money, you can have my home,
But for goodness sakes women leave my man alone. Ch.**

**Gonna buy me a bulldog to watch papa sleep
To watch this man of mine on his midnight creep. Ch.**

Blues in the Bottle

Chorus:

Blues in the bottle, blues in the bottle

Where do you think you're at, pretty mama

Blues in the bottle, where do you think you're at

You went and kicked my dog, and now you've sat on my hat.

Rooster chews tobacco, rooster chews tobacco

And the hen uses snuff, pretty mama

The rooster chews tobacco and the hen uses snuff

The baby chickens don't take nothing, but they just strut their stuff.

Ch.

Going to Chattanooga, going to Chattanooga

See my ponies run, pretty mama

Going to Chattanooga to see my ponies run

If I win a prize, I'll give my baby some. Ch.

Going to Sillypuddie, going to Sillypuddie

Sorry I can't take you, pretty mama

Going to Sillypuddie, sorry I can't take you

I can't abide no woman, who goes round sniffing glue. Ch.

Dig your taters, O dig your taters

It's tater digging time, pretty mama

O dig your taters, it's tater digging time

Old man Jack Frost, done and killed your vine. Ch.

Bottle of Brandy

Chorus:

*There's a bottle of brandy that sits by my bed
And it keeps all those memories away
When the bottle is empty they can knock on my door
It's them old memories coming back to stay.*

**Well I sit here alone and I wait for her return
But I know she'll never come back to me
Well I know that she doesn't love me but I seem to forget
That I'm just an old memory. Ch.**

**Oh if she will come back I will love her so much
And I would never let her go
But the day that she left me, well it broke my heart
Now this bottle is all I ever love. Ch.**

Ça c'est dur à croire (O Ye, Yai)

**Oh, yé yai, ça c'est dur à croire
Ton pap et ta mam m'avaient dit j'étais pas bon
Oh yé yai, comment moi j'va faire
'tit coeur aujourd'hui t'après m'quitter (mais mois) tout seul.**

**Oh ye yai, its hard to believe
Your dad and your mom told me I was no good
Oh ye yai what will I do
Li'l heart today you are leaving me all alone.**

Dim Lights Thick Smoke

Chorus:

*Dim lights, thick smoke, and loud, loud music
Is the only kind of life you'll ever understand
Dim lights, thick smoke and loud, loud music
You'll never make a wife to a home-loving man*

**A home and little children mean nothing to you
A house filled with love and a husband so true
You'd rather have a drink with the first guy you meet
And the only home you'll know is the club down the street.
Ch.**

**A drinking and dancing to a honky tonk band
Is the only kind of life you'll ever understand
Go out and have your fun, you think you've played it smart
I'm sorry for you and your honky tonk heart.
Ch.**

Doing what you want me to

You got me running, you got me hiding

You got me run, hide, hide, hide, anyway you want

Chorus:

Let it roll, Yeh, yeh, yeh...

You got me doing what you want me

Baby why you want to let it go.

I'm going up, I'm going down

I'm going up, down, up, down, anyway you want

Ch.

Got me peeping, got me hiding

Got me peep, hide, peep, hide, anyway you want

Ch.

Driving Nails In My Coffin

**My sweetheart has gone and I'm so lonely
She said that she and I were through
I started out a-drinking for a pastime
Driving nails in my coffin over you**

Chorus:

*I'm just driving nails in my coffin
Every time I drink a bottle of booze
I'm just driving nail in my coffin
Only driving those nails over you.*

**Now ever since the day that we parted
I've been so sad so blue
I can't help thinking about her
And I just can't quit drinking that old booze. Ch.**

**Well you turned me down you don't want me
There's nothing more I can do
I'll be driving nails in my coffin
Worrying my darling over you. Ch.**

France Blues

Did you ever take a trip down on the Mobile line
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about the Mobile line
That's a road to ride to ease your troubling mind.

Well I got a letter, this is the way it read
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about the way it read
Said come home baby because your lover is dead.

Well I ran out, I hopped out on the road
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about on the road
When I got there she was laying on a cooling board.

When I die don't bury your papa at all
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about your Papa at all
Just throw my bones down in some alcohol.

When I die, put my picture in a frame
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about my picture in a frame
Hang it up on the mantle you can see me just the same.

When I die I think I'm gonna stop by France
Hey lordy mama mama, hey lordy papa papa
Talking about, a stop by France
I'm gonna stop by France just to give all the women a chance.

Freight Train Blues

**I was born in Dixie in a boomer's shack,
Just a little old shanty by a railroad track,
The humming of the drivers was my lullaby,
And a freight train whistle taught me how to cry.....**

Chorus:

*I've got the freight train blues, lordy, lordy, lordy,
Got 'em in the bottom of my rambling shoes,
And when that whistle blows, I've gotta go,
Oh! lordy! guess I'm never gonna lose,
The mean old freight train blues.*

**My pappy was a fireman and my mammy dear,
Was the only daughter of an engineer,
My sister married a brakeman and it ain't no joke,
It's a shame she keeps a good man broke..... Ch.**

**I love the sweetest little girl in this old town
She's the only thing that makes me settle down
The only thing that really matters to me
Is the wild cat whistle on a high bound train..... Ch.**

Grosse Erreur

**Quand j'ai quitté de la maison, moi de croyais j'avais raison
J'avais dit que j'aurais jamais revenu,
Mais ça a pas été si longtemps, Je t'ai eu de besoin à mon côté
J'ai vu que j'avais fait une grosse erreur.**

**Je t'ai rejoint dessus la rue avec un autre à ton côté
Tu ressemblais si contente et si heureuse
Avec des larmes dedans mes yeux et mon cher coeur aussi
cassé
J'ai vu que j'avais fait une grosse erreur.**

**Dans la clarté du soleil et la lumière de la lune
J'ai vu personne était si heureuse
Avec des larmes dedans mes yeux et mon cher coeur aussi
cassé
J'ai vu que j'avais fait une grosse erreur.**

**On the day I left my home, said goodbye sweet-heart I'm
going
I'll come back to you when I get my big break
It wasn't long till my heart knew, couldn't wait till I returned
Looked around and found I'd made a big mistake.**

**When I saw you pass me by, with your new love by your side
And I felt my heart cry out and start to break
You looked so happy now it's true, my heart cried I still love
you
Oh I can't explain I've made a big mistake.**

**Give me one star's candlelight for the moon is dark tonight
And I'm lost but I can't lose this empty ache
Your new love lies where I once lay, my heart still cries I long
to stay
I regret too late I made a big mistake.**

If the river was Whiskey

**If the river was whiskey and I was a duck,
I'd dive to the bottom and I'd never come up.**

Chorus:

*Tell me how long do I have to wait?
Can I get you now or must I hesitate?*

**If the river was whiskey and the branch was wine,
You would see me in bathing most any old time. Ch.**

**I was born in England and raised in France
I bought a suit of clothing and they wouldn't send the pants.
Ch.**

**I was born in Georgia and raised in Tennessee,
If you don't like my peaches, don't shake my tree. Ch**

**I looked down the road about as far as I could see,
A man had my woman and the blues had me. Ch.**

**I ain't the doctor or the doctor's son,
But I can do your doctoring till the doctor comes. Ch**

**I'm standing on the corner with a dollar in my hand
Looking for a woman who's looking for a man. Ch.**

**A nickel's worth of grease and a dime's worth of lard
I would buy more but the times are so hard. Ch**

**Got my hesitation stockings and my hesitation shoes
Lord Almighty, got those hesitation blues. Ch.**

Jug Band Music

**Way down south in Memphis Tennessee
The Jug Band Music sounds so sweet to me.**

Chorus:

***Cause it sounds so sweet, Aah, Oh it's hard to beat.
Jug Band Music certainly was a treat to me.***

**I was with me gal, put my hand on her knee.
She said, 'You can play the jug, but you can't play with me.'
Ch.**

**I went back home turned on my radio
Jug Band Music made me stomp and go. Ch.**

**I took off my socks, and I took off my shoes.
I danced all night to them Jug Band Blues. Ch.**

**I heard the boys playing the other day
You know those boys drove my blues away. Ch.**

**I told those people way across that hall
I'm playing this piece and you know that's all. Ch.**

Kansas City

**Going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come,
Going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come
They've got some crazy little women there
And I'm going to get me one.**

**Gonna be standing on the corner, of 12 street and Vine
Gonna be standing on the corner, of 12 street and Vine
With me Kansas City baby
And my bottle of Kansas City wine.**

**Well I might take the train, I might take the plane
But if I have to walk, I'm going just the same
Gonna to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come
They've got some crazy little women there
And I'm going to get me one.**

**If I ever see such women, I know I'm going to die
Gotta find a brand new baby that's the reason why
I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come
They've got some crazy little women and I'm gonna get
me one.**

Let the Good Times Roll

Hey everybody!
Let's have some fun
You only live once
And when it's done it's done

Chorus

Let the good times roll, (Let the good times roll)
Let the good times roll, (Let the good times roll)
I don't care if you're young or old,
Let the good times roll

Don't sit there mumbling
And talking trash
If you want to have a ball,
You got to go out and spend some cash. Ch.

Hey Mister Landlord,
Lock up all the doors
When the police comes around
Just tell them that the joint is closed. Ch.

Hey everybody, !
Dave & A's in town
I got a dollar and a quarter
And I'm just raring to clown. Ch.

Et tout quelqu'une
Allons amuser
Tu juste vis une fois
Et quand tu es mouri tu es gone
Chorus:

Les bons temps rouler (les bons temps rouler)
Les bons temps rouler (les bons temps rouler)
Ouais je fou mal si tu es vieux ou jeune
Les bons temps rouler.

Make me a Pallet on your Floor

Chorus:

Make me a pallet on your floor

Make me a pallet on your floor

Oh, make it soft, make it low, so ma good gal will never know

Make me a pallet on your floor.

Well I'll be more than satisfied

If I could catch a train to ride

And when I reach Atlanta, I'll have no place to go

Please make me a pallet on your floor. Ch.

The blues are everywhere I see

Oh the blues are everywhere I see

Oh those blues are around me, everywhere I see

Nobody's got the blues like me. Ch.

Come all you good time friends of mine

Come all you good time friends of mine

When I had ten dollars, you treated me so fine

Where were you when I only had a dime? Ch.

Mama Don't Allow

**Mama don't allow no music played in here
Mama don't allow no music played in here
But I don't care what mama don't allow
I'm gonna play my music anyhow
Mama don't allow no music played in here.**

**Mama don't allow no banjos played in here (2)
But I don't care what mama don't allow
I'm gonna pick my banjo anyhow
Mama don't allow no banjos played in here.**

**Mama don't allow no guitars played in here (2)
But I don't care what mama don't allow
I'm gonna strum my guitar anyhow
Mama don't allow no guitars played in here.**

**Mama don't allow no mandolins played in here (2)
But I don't care what mama don't allow
I'm gonna strum my mando anyhow
Mama don't allow no mandolins played in here.**

**Mama don't allow no hand clapping round here (2)
I don't care what mama don't allow
We're going to clap our hands anyhow.....**

**Mama don't allow no singers round here (2)
I don't care what mama don't allow
We're going to sing our head off anyhow.....**

**Mama don't allow no truckin' done in here (2)
After mama switches off the light
I like to do my truckin' e'vry night**

San Francisco Bay Blues

**Got the blues from my baby down by the 'Cisco Bay,
Ocean liner's going so far away,
Didn't mean to treat you so bad, the best girl I ever have had
Said goodbye, wanna make me cry, wanna lay down and die.**

**I ain't got a nickel and I ain't got a lousy dime
If she don't come back I think I'm gonna lose my mind
If she ever come back to stay, it'll be a brand new day
Walking with my baby down by the Cisco Bay, hey, hey, hey,
Walking with my baby down by the Cisco Bay.**

**Looking from my back door, wondering which way to go
The woman I'm so crazy about, she don't love me no more
Think I'll catch me a freight train 'cos I'm feeling blue
Ride all the way to the end of the line, thinking only of you.**

**In another city just about to go insane
Seems I heard my baby the way she used to call my name
If you ever come back to stay, it'll be a brand new day
Walking with my baby down by the Cisco Bay, hey, hey, hey,
Walking with my baby down by the Cisco Bay.**

Stealing Stealing

Chorus

*Stealing, stealing, pretty mama don't you tell on me
I'm stealing back to my same old used to be. x2*

**Put your arms around me like a circle `round the sun
I want you to love me baby like my easy rider done
I don't believe I love you, look at the fool I've been
I don't believe I'm sinking, look at the hole I'm in.
Ch.**

**Well I got me a woman about my height and size
She's a married woman, comes to see me some time
You don't believe I love you, look at the fool I've been
You don't believe I'm sinking, look at the hole I'm in.
Ch.**

Trouble in Mind

Chorus:

Trouble in mind, I'm blue

But I won't be blue always,

'Cause the sun's gonna shine, in my back door some day.

I'm gonna lay my head

On a lonesome railroad line,

And let the Two Nineteen train, ease my troubled mind. Ch.

I'm all alone at midnight

And my lamp is burning low,

Never had so much trouble, in my life before. Ch.

I'm gonna lay my head

On that lonesome railroad track

But when I hear that whistle, Lord I'm gonna pull it back.

Ch.

I'm going down to the river

Take along my rocking chair

And if the blues don't leave me, I'll rock on away from there.

Ch.

Trouble in mind, I'm blue

Trouble on my worried mind

When you see me laughing, I'm laughing just to keep from

crying. Ch.

Wild Side of Life

**You wouldn't read my letter if I wrote you
You asked me not to call you on the phone.
But there's something I'm wanting to tell you
So I wrote it in the words of this song.**

Chorus:

***I didn't know God made honky tonk angels
I should have known you'd never make a wife
You gave up the only one that ever loved you
And went back to the wild side of life.***

**The glamour of the gay night life has lured you
To the places where the wine and liquor flows.
There you wait to be anybody's baby
And forget the only love you'll ever know. Ch.**

Worried Man Blues

Chorus:

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song

I'm worried now but I won't be worried long.

I went across the river and I lay me down to sleep x3

When I awoke there were shackles on my feet. Ch.

Twenty-one links of chain wrapped around my leg x3

And on each link an initial of my name. Ch.

I asked the judge what would be my fine. x3

Twenty-one years on the R.C. mountain line Ch.

The train arrived, sixteen coaches long. x3

The girl I love is on that train and gone. Ch.

I looked down the track as far as I could see. x3

Little bitty hand waving after me. Ch.

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song. x3

I'm worried now but I won't be worried long.