

# Allison Moorer, Ruby Jewel Was Here

In Nineteen and Double-Aught  
A harlot who was hot to trot  
Gave a fine little bijoux to the world  
With a blacksmith for a makeshift doc  
In a cathouse far from Camelot  
Her goldmine brought to bear a baby girl  
When the child screamed from life's first slap  
The boss said &quot;Kid get used to that  
You'll never meet a jake that isn't cruel&quot;  
And she wrapped her babe in a petticoat  
Grabbed a bottle and made a toast  
Here's to my gorgeous bastard, Ruby Jewel

And the man at the piano played a tune  
And everybody sang and danced in the saloon  
Except Ruby (Ruby)  
No not Ruby (Ruby)  
Ruby Jewel

Reared among the guttersnipes  
While her mama puffed a Chinese pipe  
The salad days for Ruby didn't last  
Forced to work and pay her dues  
Inside that poor man's Moulin Rouge  
A snot-nosed kid had to grow up fast  
Night and day she toiled and sweat  
While brothel patrons placed their bets  
On who would be the first to break her in  
Then one night the madam screams  
&quot;Ruby, get to room thirteen  
There's someone there who thinks you're quite a gem&quot;

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And everybody sang and danced in the saloon  
Except Ruby (Ruby)  
No not Ruby (Ruby)  
Ruby Jewel

In done-up hair and a borrowed dress  
She climbed the stairs scared to death  
Said a prayer and tiptoed through the door  
But on deaf ears her prayer fell  
Cause through a tear she stared at hell  
Standing there in nothing but his drawers  
She recognized the whiskered chin  
Bloodshot eyes and foul-mouthed grin  
He was the man who wore the silver star  
She tried to turn around and run  
But he pulled out his big six gun  
And said &quot;Hon you won't get very far&quot;

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Ruby Jewel

Ruby Jewel woke up in bed  
A crimson pool between her legs  
Naked as the day that she was born  
But lying there next to him  
Made her wish she hadn't been  
If this was all that living had in store  
Making sure he was asleep

She quietly got to her feet  
Found his gun and aimed it between his eyes  
She kept it there til he came to  
So he could stare down the barrel too  
Pulled the trigger once and watched him die

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No not Ruby (Ruby)  
Ruby Jewel

On a rainy night in 1912  
Locked inside the town's new jail  
Ruby carved a message in the stone  
When morning came hacks lead her out  
In ankle chains right through the crowd  
Who waited in the mud to watch the show  
They walked her up the gallows steps  
And put the rope around her neck  
Dropped the trap as all the watchers cheered  
But on the wall of a cell  
In a tiny scrawl and misspelled  
Were the words &&quot;Ruby Jewel Was Here&&quot;

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