

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 "Kid get used to that
You'll never meet a jake that isn't cruel"
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
"Ruby, get to room thirteen
There's someone there who thinks you're quite a gem"

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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 "Hon you won't get very far"

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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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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 "Ruby Jewel Was Here"

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