

# Joan Baez, Prison Trilogy (Billy Rose)

Billy Rose was a low rider, Billy Rose was a night fighter  
Billy knew trouble like the sound of his own name  
Busted on a drunken charge driving someone else's car  
The local midnight sheriffs claim to fame  
In an Arizona jail there are some who tell the tale how  
Billy fought the sergeant for some milk that he demanded  
Knowing they'd remain the boss, knowing he would pay the cost  
They saw he was severely reprimanded  
In the blackest cell on "A" Block  
He hanged himself at dawn  
With a note stuck to the bunk head  
Don't mess with me, just take me home  
Come lay, help us lay  
Young Billy down  
Luna was a Mexican the law called an alien  
For coming across the border with a baby and a wife  
Though the clothes upon his back were wet still he thought  
That he could get some money and things to start a life  
It hadn't been too very long when it seemed like everything went wrong  
They didn't even have the time to find themselves a home  
This foreigner, a brown-skin male thrown into a Texas jail  
It left the wife and baby quite alone  
He eased the pain inside him  
With a needle in his arm  
But the dope just crucified him  
He died to no one's great alarm  
Come lay, help us lay young Luna down  
Were gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground  
Kilowatt was an aging con of 65 who stood a chance to stay alive  
And leave the joint and walk the streets again  
As the time he was to leave drew near he suffered all the joy and fear  
Of leaving 35 years in the pen  
And on the day of his release he was approached by the police  
Who took him to the warden walking slowly by his side  
The warden said "You won't remain here but it seems a state retainer  
claims another 10 years of your life"  
He stepped out in the Texas sunlight  
The cops all stood around  
Old Kilowatt ran 50 yards  
Then threw himself on the ground  
They may as well just laid the old man down  
And we're gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground  
Help us raze the prisons to the ground