

# Romeo Is Bleeding

Tom Waits

Romeo is bleeding, not so as you'd notice  
He's over on 18th street as usual  
Lookin' so hard against the hood of his car  
Puttin' out a cigarette in his hand  
For all the pachucos at the pumps  
At Romero's Paint and Body They're all seein' how far they can spit  
Well, it was just another night  
And now they're huddled in the  
Brake lights of a 58 Belair  
And listenin' to how Romeo killed  
The Sheriff with his knife And they all jump when they hear the sirens  
Romeo just laughs  
"All the racket in the world ain't never gonna  
Save that Coppers' ass  
He ain't never gonna see another summertime  
For gunnin' down my brother  
Leavin' him like a dog  
Beneath a car without his knife" Romeo says, "Hey man, gimme a cigarette"  
And they all reach for their pack  
Frankie lights it for him and pats him on the back  
An' throws a bottle at a milk truck  
And as it breaks, he grabs his nuts  
An' they all know, they could be just like Romeo  
If they only had the guts Romeo is bleeding, nobody can tell  
An' he sings along with the radio  
With a bullet in his chest  
An' he combs back his fenders  
They all agree it's clear  
That everything is cool, and if Romeo was here Romeo is bleeding an' he winces now an' then  
An' he leans against the car door  
Feels the blood in his shoes  
Someone's cryin' at the fire point  
In the phone booth by the store Romeo starts his engines  
Wipes the blood off the door  
And he brodys through the signal  
With the radio full blast  
Leavin' the boys there, hikin' up their chinos  
And now they're all tryin' to stand like Romeo  
With the moon, cut like a sickle

And they're talkin' now in Spanish, all about their hero  
Romeo is bleeding as he gives the man his ticket  
And he climbs the balcony at the movies  
And he'll die without a whimper  
Like every hero's dream  
Like an angel with a bullet  
And Cagney on a screen  
Romeo is bleeding  
Romeo is bleeding  
Hey man, Romeo is bleeding  
Hey man, Romeo is bleeding  
Hey man, Romeo is bleeding  
Hey man, Romeo is bleeding

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