

# Don't Take Your Guns to Town

## Johnny Cash

A young cowboy named Billy Joe  
Grew restless on the farm  
A boy filled with wonderlust  
Who really meant no harm  
He changed his clothes and shined his boots  
And combed his dark hair down  
And his mother cried as he walked out  
Don't take your guns to town, son  
Leave your guns at home, Bill  
Don't take your guns to town  
He laughed and kissed his mom and said  
You're Billy Joe's a man  
I can shoot as quick and straight  
As anybody can  
But, I wouldn't shoot without a cause  
I'd gun nobody down  
But she cried again as he rode away  
Don't take your guns to town, son  
Leave your guns at home, Bill  
Don't take your guns to town  
He sang a song as on he rode  
His guns hung at his hips  
He rode into a cattle town  
A smile upon his lips  
He stopped and walked into a bar  
And laid his money down  
But his mother's words echoed again  
Don't take your guns to town, son  
Leave your guns at home, Bill  
Don't take your guns to town  
He drank his first strong liquor  
Then to calm his shaking hand  
And tried to tell himself at last  
He had become a man  
A dusty cowpoke at his  
Began to laugh him down  
And he heard again his mother's words  
Don't take your guns to town, son  
Leave your guns at home, Bill  
Don't take your guns to town  
Filled with rage then Billy Joe  
Reached for his gun to draw  
But the stranger drew his gun and fired

Before he even saw  
As Billy Joe fell to the floor  
The crowd all gathered round  
And wondered at his final words  
Don't take your guns to town, son  
Leave your guns at home, Bill  
Don't take your guns to town

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