

Ruby Jewel Was Here

Allison Moorer

In Nineteen and Double-August

A harlot who was hot to trot

Gave a fine little bijoux to the world

With a blacksmith for a makeshift doc

In a cat house far from Camelot

Her goldmine brought to bear a baby girlWhen the child screamed from life's first slap

The boss said, "Kid, get used to that

You'll never meet a day 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 JewelAnd the man at the piano played a tune

And everybody sang and danced in the saloon

Except Ruby

(Ruby)

No, not Ruby

(Ruby)

Ruby JewelReared among the guttersnipe

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 fastNight 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" 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 JewelIn 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 drawersShe 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" 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 JewelRuby Jewel woke up in bed
A crimson pool between her legs
Naked as the day she was born
But lying there next to him
Made her wish she hadn't been
If this was all that living had in storeMaking 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 dieAnd the man at the piano played a tune
And everybody sang and danced in the saloon
Except Ruby
(Ruby)
No, not Ruby
(Ruby)

Ruby JewelOn a rainy night in nineteen twelve
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 showThey walked her up the gallows steps
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'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