The Unwelcome Guest

Billy Bragg & Wilco

To the rich man's bright lodges, I ride in this wind On my good horse, I call you, my shiny Black Bess To the playhouse of fortune, to take the bright silver And gold you have taken from somebody else And as we go riding, in the damp foggy midnight You snort, my good pony and you give me your best For you know and I know, good horse 'mongst the rich ones How oftimes we go there, an unwelcome guest I never took food from the widows and orphans And never a hardworking man I oppressed So take your pace easy, for home soon like lightning We soon will be riding, my shiny Black Bess No fat rich man's pony, can ever overtake you And there's not a rider from the east to the west Who could hold you a light in this dark mist and midnight When the potbellied thieves chase the unwelcome guest I don't know, good horse, as we trot in this dark here That robbing the rich is for worse or for best They take it by stealing and lying and gambling And I take it my way, my shiny Black Bess I treat horses good and I'm friendly to strangers I ride and your running makes my guns talk the best And the rangers and deputies are hired by the rich man To catch me and hang me, my shining Black Bess Yes, they'll catch me napping, one day and they'll kill me And then I'll be gone but that won't be my end For my guns and my saddle will always be filled By unwelcome travelers and other brave men And they'll take the money and spread it out equal Just like the Bible and the Prophets suggest But men that go riding, to help these poor workers The rich will cut down like an unwelcome guest

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