

Prison Trilogy [Billy Rose] (Joan Baez)

G Billy Rose was a low rider, **Bm** Billy Rose was a night fighter, **C** Billy Rose knew trouble like the sound of his own name. **G** **D**
D7 Busted on a drunken charge, **D7** driving someone else's car, the local midnight sheriff's claim to fame. **G**
G In an Arizona jail there are some who tell the tale how **Bm**
C Billy fought the sergeant for some milk that he demanded. **G** **D**
D7 Knowing they'd remain the boss, **D7** knowing he would pay the cost, they saw he was severely reprimanded. **D7** **G**
Em In the blackest cell on "A" block he hanged himself at dawn with a note stuck to the bunk head: **Bm**
D7 "Don't mess with me, just take me home". **D**
Em Come and lay, help us lay, young Billy down. **D** **G**

G Luna was a Mexican the law called an alien for coming across the border with a baby and a wife. **Bm** **C** **G** **D**
D7 Though the clothes upon his back were wet, still he thought that he could get some money and things to start a life. **D7** **G**
G It hadn't been too very long when it seemed like everything went wrong. **Bm**
C They didn't even have the time to find themselves a home! **G** **D**
D7 This foreigner, a brown-skin male, thrown into a Texas jail, it left the wife and baby quite alone. **D7** **G**
Em He eased the pain inside him with a needle in his arm, but the dope just crucified him: **Bm**
D7 he died to no one's great alarm. **D**
Em Come and lay, help us lay, poor Luna down. **D** **G**
Em And we're gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground. **D** **G**

G Kilowatt was an aging con of 65 who stood a chance to stay alive and leave the joint and walk the streets again. **Bm** **C** **G** **D**
D7 As the time he was to leave drew near, he suffered all the joy and fear of leaving 35 years in the pen. **D7** **G**
G And on the day of his release he was approached by the police **Bm**
C who took him to the warden walking slowly by his side. **G** **D**
D7 The warden said "You won't remain here but it seems a state retainer claims another 10 years of your life." **D7** **G**
Em He stepped out in the Texas sunlight, the cops all stood around. Old Kilowatt ran 50 yards then **Bm**
D7 threw himself down on the ground. **D**
Em They might as well just have laid the old man down. **D** **G**
Em And we're gonna raze, raze the prisons to the ground. **D** **G**
Em Help us raze, raze the prisons to the ground. **D** **G**