

## **Bruce Springsteen**

# **"Visitation at Fort Horn"**

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Behind the walls where heat lightning falls  
On five starred gnat-faced princess  
The buffalo man shoots at the tin cats  
Turns and shouts "children, blow your bridges"  
On death row halls where dustmen stall  
Where time's an enemy and a friend  
At night jackals crawl from the cracks in the walls  
And salvation is never spoken  
Morning sickness breaks the garrison gate  
The cavalry cries for treason  
The soldier strokes his pony and goes to shine the  
captain's sword  
In this young boy's eyes lie reason  
And the sergeant bursts in and cries "i caught a  
prisoner, captain,  
A prisoner, what ho !"  
The captain looks up and says "let her go"  
"but captain, she patrols the light ships that patrol the  
sea around  
The rainbow tips, whose bagpiper wail unbroken  
She haunts the night and the dawnin' light  
On her sounds and words your cavalry chokin' "  
The captain says "have no fear, boys  
For what you hear  
Because danger can't be spoken "

The whirlwind crackles and I hear the rustle of shackles  
From the stockade door bursts merlin  
His eyes red, and swollen, like they've been pushed  
into the sun  
His robes aflame and burnin'  
He jumps a horse, tries to get away  
But he gets caught in his eyes, tangled in his eyes  
He falls to the ground, his neck is broken  
His spirit rises high in the western sky

The magician lies an empty token

The sergeant walks over and kicks his body  
And says "captain, he's dead - what shall we do with  
him ? "  
The captain says "hang him

For though his live moments on this earth are well  
spent  
And I can see his body is sure well bent  
It's magic that must be broken "

Now night cradles low  
The penniless weed plays wrath felt in the captain's  
corner  
With anvil spread wide, the captain glides  
Each blow to scare her, not to hurt her  
She spits "what truth" at the captain's boots  
But he holds his rage suspended  
The sergeant comes in stinkin' of soldier's gin  
And cries "captain, the storm she blows unending"  
Oh and the lightning cracked and the sky was hacked  
By dagger rain it was torn  
And the yard was charged into a raging sea  
And the captain ran crazily  
For the first time in his life, in the captain's heart  
Fear was born

The captain storms out on the stoop, panic strikes  
He sees merlin's hung body stretched by the neck  
Silhouetted on his door  
The sergeant screams "captain, look high, look to the  
sky !"  
Some whirling, swirling emission ...  
But the captain falls to his knees crying silent pleas  
'cause he knows, he knows, and he thinks to himself  
"a magician..."

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