

Diana Ross

"Ode To Billie Joe"

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It was the third of June
Another sleepy, dusty Delta day
I was out choppin' cotton
And my brother was balin' hay

And at dinner time we stopped
And we walked back to the house to eat
And mama hollered at the back door
"Y'all remember to wipe your feet"

And then she said she got some news
This mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
Today Billie Joe MacAllister
Jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

Papa said to mama as he passed
Around the Black Eyed Peas
"Well, Billie Joe never had a lick of sense
Pass the biscuits, please"

"There's five more acres
In the lower forty I've got to plow"
Mama said it was shame
About Billie Joe, anyhow

Seems like nothin' ever comes
To no good up on Choctaw Ridge
And now Billie Joe MacAllister
Jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

And brother said he recollected
When he and Tom and Billie Joe
Put a frog down my back
At the Carroll County picture show

And wasn't I talkin' to him
After church last Sunday night?
"I'll have another piece of apple pie
You know it just don't seem right"

"I saw him at the sawmill
Yesterday on Choctaw Ridge"

"And now you tell me Billie Joe's
Jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge"

Mama said to me
"Child, what's happened to your appetite?"
"I've been cookin' all morning
And you haven't touched a single bite"

"That nice young preacher
Brother Taylor, dropped by today"
"Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday
Oh, by the way"

He said, "He saw a girl
That looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge"
"And she and Billie Joe
Was throwing somethin' off the Tallahatchie Bridge"

A year has come 'n gone
Since we heard the news 'bout Billie Joe
Brother married Becky Thompson
They bought a store in Tupelo

There was a virus going 'round
Papa caught it and he died last Spring
And now mama doesn't seem to
Wanna do much of anything

And me, I spend a lot of time
Pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge
And drop them into the muddy water
Off the Tallahatchie Bridge

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