Emmylou Harris "Ballard Of A Runaway Horse"

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(Leonard Cohen)

Say a prayer for the cowgirl her horse ran away She'll walk 'til she finds him her darlin' her stray But the river's in flood and the roads are awash And the bridges break up in the panic of loss

And there's nothin' to follow nowhere to go
He's gone like the summer gone like the snow
And the crickets are breaking her heart with their song
As the day caves in and the night is all wrong

Did she dream it was he who went galloping past And bent down the fern broke open the grass And printed the mud with the well-hammered shoe That she nailed to his speed in the dreams of her youth

And although he goes grazin' a minute away She tracks him all night she tracks him all day And she's blind to his presence except to compare Her injury here with his punishment there

Then at home on a branch on a high stream A songbird sings out so suddenly And the sun is warm and the soft winds ride On a willow tree by the riverside

An the world is sweet and world is wide And he's there where the light and the darkness divide And the steam's comin' off him he's huge and he's shy And he steps on the moon when he paws at the sky

And he comes to her hand but he's nor really tame

He longs to be lost she longs for the same And he'll bolt and he'll plunge thru the first open pass To roll and to feed in the sweet mountain grass

Or he'll make a break for the high plateau Where there's nothing above and noting below It's time for their burden the whip and the spur Will she ride with him or will he ride with her So she binds herself to her galloping steed And he binds himself to the woman in need And there is no space just left and right And there is no time but there is day and night

Then she learns on his neck and whispers low Whither thou goest I will go And they turn as one the head for the plain No need for the whip oh no need for the rain

Now the clasp of this union who fastens it tight Who snaps it asunder the very next night Some say it's him some say it's her Some say love's like smoke beyond all repair

So my darlin' my darlin' just let go by That old silhouette on the great western sky And I'll pick out a tune and they'll move right along And they're gone like smoke and they're gone like this song

Say a prayer for the cowgirl

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