

## **Jerry Douglas**

# **"Don't Take Your Guns To Town"**

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A young cowboy named Billy Joe  
Grew restless on the farm  
A good boy filled with wanderlust  
Who really meant no harm  
He changed his clothes and shined his boots  
And combed his dark hair down

And his mother cried as he walked out  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

He laughed and kissed his mom  
And said, "Your Billy Joe's a man  
And I can shoot as quick and straight  
As anybody can  
But I wouldn't shoot without a cause  
I'd gun nobody down"

But she cried again as he rode away  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

He sang a song as he rode along  
His guns hung at his hips  
He rode into a cattle town  
A smile upon his lips  
He stopped and walked into a bar  
And laid his money down

But his mother's words echoed again  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

He drank his first strong liquor then  
To calm his shakin' hand  
He tried to tell himself at last  
He had become a man  
A dusty cowpoke at his side  
Began to laugh him down

And he heard again his mother's words  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

And in his rage  
Billy Joe reached for his gun to draw  
But the stranger drew his gun and fired  
Before he even saw  
As Billy Joe fell to the floor  
The crowd all gathered 'round

And they wondered at his final words  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

A hundred and twenty years have passed  
And nothin's really changed  
A young man on the city streets  
He has to make his name  
He's still too young to know  
A gun can't make a boy a man

And his mama cries as he walks out  
"Don't take your guns to town son  
Leave your guns at home Bill  
Don't take your guns to town"

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