

## **Joni Mitchell**

# **"Otis And Marlena"**

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Marlena under Foster Grants  
She's undercover from the dawns advance  
That girl is travel-drained  
And the neon mercury vapor stained  
Miami sky  
It's red as meat  
It's a cheap pink rose  
Otis in the driver's seat  
Watches the street lights fade away  
On louvered blocks in green sea air  
In fluorescent fossil yards  
Slippers are shuffling into folding chairs  
Freckled hands are shuffling cards

They've come for fun and sun  
While Muslims stick up Washington ...

Otis empties out the trunk  
On the steps of that celebrated dump  
Sleazing by the sea  
Bow down to her royal travesty--  
In her ballrooms heads of state--  
In her bedrooms rented girls--  
Always the grand parades of cellulite  
Jiggling to her golden pools  
Through flock and cupid colonnades  
They jiggle into surgery  
Hopefully beneath the blade  
They dream of golden beauty ...

They've come for fun and sun  
While Muslims stick up Washington ...

Marlena, white as stretcher sheet  
Watches it all from her 10th floor balcony  
Like it's her opera box  
All those Pagliacci summer frocks  
Otis is fiddling with the TV dial  
All he gets are cartoons and reruns  
She taps her glass with an emery file  
Watching three rings in the sun  
The golden dive, the fatted flake

And sizzle in the mink oil  
It's all a dream  
She has awake  
Checked into Miami Royal  
Where they've come for fun and sun  
While Muslims hold up Washington ...  
Dream on  
Dream on  
Dream on  
Dream on  
Dream on

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