

## **Levon Helm**

# **"A Train Robbery"**

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The foreman touched the cold steel lines  
The rail bed was frozen with ice  
In the distance an engine was keeping good time  
The steam whistle moaned just twice

Down in the cut past the old Tressel bridge  
Twelve fine horses stood  
Masked men shivered in the cold on the ridge  
Not far from the Glendale woods

The brass lamp shone from the swaying train  
When the driver saw the red light  
Her iron brakes sparked like silver rain  
And the metals screamed through the night

The baggage man peered out to look for the fault  
When fear froze up his heart  
He was staring down the barrel of an army colt  
That threatened to tear him apart

We will burn your train to cinders  
So throw the money on down  
Open up your damned express car  
And jump down to the ground

But we won't touch that old woman  
[Incomprehensible] and they claimed  
They ain't offered no reward  
For Frank and Jesse James  
Frank and Jesse James

In long soldier's coats frayed with the years  
Quickly they scrambled aboard  
Men were the sweatin' and the women shed tears  
And a preacher prayed to the Lord

When they opened the safe there was nothing for them  
So they strode down through the train  
What a miserable sight these desperate men  
Robbin' old folks for their gold, watch, chains

We will burn your train to cinders

So throw the money on down  
Open up your damned express car  
And jump down to the ground

But we won't touch that old woman  
[Incomprehensible] and they claimed  
They ain't offered no reward  
For Frank and Jesse James  
Frank and Jesse James

Now some say the devil had taken his soul  
Some say his spirit survived  
But we all know he was nothin' but a Missouri farm boy  
Just fighting to stay alive

High above that railroad bed  
On a ridge where the pines grow tall  
If you listen to the wind, there's a ghost of a chance  
You can still hear old Jesse call

We will burn your train to cinders  
So throw the money on down  
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