

Livores Mortis

"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 a bailin'
hay
And at dinner time we stopped and walked back to the
house to eat
And mama hollered out the backdoor you all remember
to wipe your feet
And then she said I got some news this mornin' from
Choctaw Wridge
Today Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the Tallahatchie
Bridge
Papa said to mama as he passed around the black
eyed peas
Billie Joe never had a lick of sense pass the biscuits
please
There's five more acres in the lower forty I got to plow
And mama said it was a shame about Billie Joe anyhow
It seems like nothing ever comes to no good upon
Choctaw Wridge
And now Billie Joe Macallister jumped off the
Tallahatchie Bridge
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 don't
seem right
Why I just saw him at sawmill yesterday upon Choctaw
Wridge
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 mornin' and you haven't touched a
single bite
That nice young preacher brother Tailor 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 upon

Choctaw Wridge
And she and Billie Joe was throwin' somethin' off the
Tallahatchie Bridge
Now one year's come and gone since we heard the
news about Billie Joe
Brother married Becky Thompson and they bought a
store in Tupelo
There was a virus goin' round papa caught it and he
died last spring
And now mama doesn't seem to want to do much of
anything
And me I spent a lot of time pickin' flowers upon
Choctaw Wridge
And dropped 'em into the muddy water off the
Tallahatchie Bridge

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