

## **Marty Robbins** **"Bill Venero"**

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In an Arizona town one day  
Bill Venero heard them say  
That a band of Apache Indians  
Were on the trail that way  
Heard them tell of murder done  
Three men killed at Rocky Run  
"They're in danger at the cow ranch"  
Said Venero under his breath!

Nearly forty miles away  
Was a little place that lay  
In a deep and shady valley  
In the mighty wilderness  
Half a score of homes were there  
And in one a maiden fair  
Held the heart of Bill Venero  
Bill Venero's Little Bess.  
So no wonder he grew pale  
When he heard the cowboy's tale  
Of the men that he'd seen murdered  
There at Rocky Run  
Sure as there's a God above  
I will save the girl I love  
By that love I hold for Bessie  
I will see that somethin's done!

Not one minute he delayed  
When this brave resolve was made  
"But, man," his comrades told him  
When they hears his daring plan  
"You are riding straight to death!"  
But he answered, "Save your breath,  
I may never reach the cow ranch  
But I'll do the best I can."  
As he crossed the alkali  
All his thoughts flew on ahead  
To the little band at Cow Ranch  
Thinking not a danger near  
With his quirt's unceasing whirl  
And the jingle of his spurs  
Little Chapo bore the cowboy  
O'er the far away frontier.

Sharp and dear a rifle shot  
Woke the echoes of the spot  
"I am wounded," cried Venero  
As he swayed from side to side.  
"While there's life there's always hope  
Slowly onward I will lope  
If we fail to reach the Cow Ranch  
Bessie Lee will know I tried."

Then at dusk a horse of brown  
Wet with sweat came panting down  
The little lane at Cow Ranch  
Stopped in front of Bessie's door.  
But the cowboy was asleep  
And his slumber was so deep  
Little Bess could never wake him  
Though she tried forever more.

You have heard this story told  
By the young and by the old  
How the Indians killed Venero  
On his way to Rocky Run.  
Many years have passed away  
And the maiden's hair is gray  
But still she places roses  
On Bill Venero's grave.

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