

Molly Johnson

"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 balin' hay
At dinner time we stopped and walked back to the
house
To eat
And Mama hollered out the back door "y'all remember
to
Wipe your feet"
And then she said "I got some news this mornin' from
Choctaw Ridge"
"Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the
Tallahatchie Bridge"

And Papa said to Mama as he passed around the
blackeyed
Peas
"Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense, pass the
Biscuits, please"
"There's five more acres in the lower forty... got to
Plow"
And Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow
Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on
Choctaw
Ridge
And now Billy Joe MacAllister, jumped off the
Tallahatchie Bridge

And 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"
"I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge"
"And now you tell me Billie Joe's jumped off the
Tallahatchie Bridge"

And Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your

Appetite?"

"I've been cookin' all morning... you haven't touched a
Single bite"

"... Nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, 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 up on
Choctaw Ridge"

"And she and Billy Joe were throwing somethin' off the
Tallahatchie Bridge"

A year has come 'n' gone since we heard the news
'bout

Billy Joe

And Brother married Becky Thompson, bought a store
in

Tupelo

There was a virus going 'round, Papa caught it... died
Last Spring

And now Mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of
anything

And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on
Choctaw Ridge

And drop them in the muddy water off the Tallahatchie
Bridge, Yeah!

Ooh, the Tallahatchie Bridge

Oh, Muddy, Muddy, Water.

Off the Tallahatchie Bridge

Sleepy, Dusty, Delta Day

Tallahatchie Bridge

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