

Brian Burns

"The Crash At Crush"

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In the year of 1896, when the Katy railroad was king,
And the fruits of farm and industry were carried by
steel and steam,
The town of Crush was christened for a day, and folks
came from far and
Wide
To gather there in the sweltering heat and watch two
trains collide.

Two locomotives, breathing steam, sat face-to-face on
the track,
Then slowly their wheels began to turn as the
engineers throttled them
Back.
Both climbed a grade leaving two miles between, on
the hills they drew to a
Hush,
And forty-thousand people waited down below to
witness the crash at Crush.

Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, wheels a-rumblin' on the
railroad track,
Once they go they can't turn back, once they go they
can't turn back.

He locked the lever back to the second notch just after
the signal came,
He stayed on board for sixteen exhausts, and then he
jumped off of the
Train.
The young engineer watched her roar down the hill and
a chill ran through
His soul,
For he knew that neither man nor God above could stop
what would now
Unfold.

The engines met in a thunderous crash and climbed
each other toward the
Sky,
The impact rattled the earth for miles around, and the
twisted wreckage did

Fly.

In a moment more the boilers exploded, and the steam
blocked out the sun,
Some lost their lives while others lie bleeding, and the
rest of them could
Only run.

Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, wheels a-rumblin' on the
railroad track,
Once they go they can't turn back, once they go they
can't turn back.

In a cotton field near Waco, Texas between two
peaceful hills
A sign reminds us to hold respect for the power of the
beasts we build,
And you and I in our lifetimes will never get to feel such
a rush
As the people who saw and lived to tell of the awesome
crash at Crush.

Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, wheels a-rumblin' on the
railroad track,
Once they go they can't turn back, once they go they
can't turn back.

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