

The Cowboy Outlaw
Brian Dewan

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From: Steve Nicholson

The Cowboy Outlaw
by Brian Dewan

Gm

Gather round my children, and I ll tell a tale of woe

About a famous cowboy outlaw who lived a hundred years ago.

Eb

Cm

F

Today his soul at last is resting peacefully in hell

Gm

Cm

Dm

Gm

Though many years have passed away since through the gallows-trap he fell.

He was sitting propped up in a chair just after he was hanged
And they photographed his body as a distant churchbell rang.
A circus man was waiting with fifty dollars in his coat
And he bought the cowboy outlaw so he could have him in his show.

And very soon he was embalmed and toured from town to town
People paid to see the outlaw that they d heard so much about
He stood before them with a pistol against a painted scene
The greatest cowboy outlaw that the world had ever seen

But in time he was forgotten and no one knew his name
And when he began to fall apart they took his booth away
They painted him with varnish and put a crown upon his head
Come and see the king of Egypt said the sign out front instead

And then one year the circus closed, the tents were packed away
And he was sold to an amusement park on Massachusetts Bay
He was sold for next to nothing and they packed him in the van
They thought they d bought a dummy but they d really bought a man.

He was sprayed a special color to help him look a fright
And they hung him from a gallows neath an ultra-violet light
He hung there in a spookhouse for many, many years
As youthful faces passed him by in tiny railroad cars

Until one fine and fateful day in 1976
He fell down from the gallows when the hangman s noose unhitched
His arm broke at the shoulder as he clattered to the floor

And the man who went to fix him was stunned by what he saw

And the teenage boys did holler, and the teenage girls did faint
When they saw the bone protruding from the varnish and the paint
A coroner came to serve him and ran a slew of tests
they found out who he was, in time, and laid his soul to rest

A hundred hears have come and gone since he spoke his final words
I m not afraid to die and leave behind this rotten world
So go and pull the lever hangman, now my race on Earth is run
And he thought his life was ended but it had only just begun

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