

Johnny 99

Bruce Springsteen

(intro) B F# B

B

Well they closed down the auto plant in Mahwah late that month

F#

Ralph went out lookin for a job but he couldn t find none

B

He came home too drunk from mixin Tanqueray and wine

F#

B

He got a gun shot a night clerk now they call him Johnny 99

Down in the part of town where when you hit a red light you don t stop

F#

Johnny s wavin his gun around and threatenin to blow his top

B

When an off duty cop snuck up on him from behind

F#

B

Out in front of the Club Tip Top they slapped the cuffs on Johnny 99

E

B

Well the city supplied a public defender but the judge was Mean John Brown

F#

He came into the courtroom and stared poor Johnny down

B

Well the evidence is clear gonna let the sentence son fit the crime

F#

B

Prison for 98 and a year and we ll call it even Johnny 99

(harmonica) B E B F# B

E

B

A fistfight broke out in the courtroom they had to drag Johnny s girl away

F#

His mama stood up and shouted Judge don t take my boy this way

B

Well son you got any statement you d like to make

F#

B

Before the bailiff comes to forever take you away

Now judge judge I had debts no honest man could pay

F#

The bank was holdin my mortgage and they was takin my house away

B

Now I ain t sayin that makes me an innocent man

F#

B

But it was more n all this that put that gun in my hand

Well your honour I do believe I d be better off dead

F#

And if you can take a man s life for the thoughts that s in his head

B

Then won't you sit back in that chair and think it over judge one more time

**F#**

**B**

And let 'em shave off my hair and put me on that execution line

(outro) **E B F# B F# B**