

A Train Robbery

Levon Helm

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by Levon Helm

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Intro: **G**

G **C** **G**
The foreman touched the cold steel lines
G **D** **G**
The rail bed was frozen with ice
G **C** **G**
In the distance an engine was keeping good time
G **D** **G**
The steam whistle moaned just twice

C **G**
Down in the cut past the old Tressel bridge
C **D**
Twelve fine horses stood
G **C** **G**
Masked men shivered in the cold on the ridge
G **D** **G**
Not far from the Glendale woods

G **C** **G**
The brass lamp shone from the swaying train
G **D** **G**
When the driver saw the red light
G **C** **G**
Her iron brakes sparked like silver rain
G **D** **G**
And the metals screamed through the night

C **G**
The baggage man peered out to look for the fault
C **D**
When fear froze up his heart

G **C** **G**
He was staring down the barrel of an army colt
G **D** **G**
That threatened to tear him apart

G
We will burn your train to cinders
C **G**
so throw the money on down
G
Open up your damned express car
C **G**
And jump down to the ground

G
But we won t touch that old woman
C **G**
[Incomprehensible] and they claimed
G
They ain t offered no reward
C **G**
For Frank and Jesse James
C **G**
Frank and Jesse James

G **C** **G**
In long soldier s coats frayed with the years
G **D** **G**
Quickly they scrambled aboard
G **C** **G**
Men were the sweatin and the women shed tears
G **D** **G**
And a preacher prayed to the Lord

C **G**
When they opened the safe there was nothing for them
C **D**
So they strode down through the train
G **C** **G**
What a miserable sight these desperate men
G **D** **G**
Robbin old folks for their gold, watch, chains

G
We will burn your train to cinders

C **G**
so throw the money on down

G
Open up your damned express car

C **G**
And jump down to the ground

G
But we won't touch that old woman

C **G**
[Incomprehensible] and they claimed

G
They ain't offered no reward

C **G**
For Frank and Jesse James

C **G**
Frank and Jesse James

C **G**
Now some say the devil had taken his soul

C **D**
Some say his spirit survived

G **C** **G**
But we all know he was nothin' but a Missouri farm boy

G **D** **G**
Just fighting to stay alive

C **G**
High above that railroad bed

C **D**
On a ridge where the pines grow tall

G **C** **G**
If you listen to the wind, there's a ghost of a chance

G **D** **G**
You can still hear old Jesse call

G
We will burn your train to cinders

C **G**
so throw the money on down

G
Open up your damned express car

C

G

And jump down to the ground

G

But we won t touch that old woman

C

G

[Incomprehensible] and they claimed

G

They ain t offered no reward

C

G

For Frank and Jesse James

C

G

Frank and Jesse James