

A Train Robbery
by Levon Helm

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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 sweating 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

G

C **G**

G

C G

C G