Judy Collins

Che

One morning in Bolivia, the leader of the partisans And two of his companions Were forced to flee the mountains for their lives

Through green and dusty villages they sped along the little roads The peasants smiled and shouted as they hurried by Jesus called out to every one, "Don't think that we are leaving They only tried to frighten us with guns, we shall return"

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The people smiled and shouted And they ran along a little while Then stood and watched Their hands were restless and empty

The body of Jesus was in the jeep That they blew up before it reached the plane The priest was proud to bless him For what there was of him remaining in the afternoon

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The smell of oil and incense fill the room in this adobe hut Where on the table lies the body of a man His face is pale and young, his beard is dark and curled Pennies hold his eyelids from the evening light

People from the village those who knew him, those who killed him Stand inside the door, their hands are restless and empty They watch the priest make silent crosses in the air And pray to God inside their hearts for their own souls

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