

# Shoot First

Judy Collins

The minstrel boy to the war is gone  
In the ranks of death you'll find him  
His father's sword he has girded on  
And his wild harp slung behind him

Go get your guns, it's time to play  
Let's hurry up, don't waste the day  
Out in the park we'll stage a fight  
Just like on the TV

You play the one who has to die  
I'll shoot the gun and you will cry  
You will fall down and I will run  
Just like on the TV

My daddy has a gun for real  
He says he'll teach me to use it  
I'm gonna have my own someday  
Just like on the TV

My daddy told me what to do  
If anybody bothers you  
He says the law is on our side  
Just like on the TV

You've gotta shoot first, shoot first  
You've gotta shoot first and ask your questions later  
Shoot first, you've gotta shoot first  
Shoot first, you gotta get them before they get you

My older brother has his own  
It's got a handle made of bone  
He carries it all over town  
Just like on the TV

My daddy gave my mama one  
Genuine real pearl handled gun  
She says she gonna have some fun  
Just like on the TV

Did you see who got shot last night?  
I stayed up to watch him  
They rushed him off to surgery  
Right there on the TV

Gosh, I hope they catch the guy  
I think they ought to shoot him  
But if they bring him in alive  
He'll be on the TV

You've gotta shoot first, shoot first  
You've gotta shoot first and ask your questions later  
Shoot first, you've gotta shoot first  
Shoot first, you gotta get them before they get you

I've got to go, it's getting late  
I wish I had a real gun

Then I would never be afraid  
Like some guys on TV

I'd never use my gun on you  
You'd never have to worry  
You'd be the good guy on my side  
Just like on the TV

I think when I grow up someday  
I'm gonna be a Green Beret  
I saw them sailing off to war  
Last night on the TV

My daddy says it's not a game  
We've got to play to win it  
He says I'll have to learn to fight  
Just like on the TV

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"Land of song", said the warrior bard  
Tho' all the world betrays thee  
One sword at least thy rights shall guard  
One faithful harp shall praise thee