

The Hostage

Judy Collins

I'm a guard in the great iron prison, at least I was
'till now.

It was never a picnic social, never a date.
They never come in laughing and you know they never
taught them how
It was damn hard work, and you wouldn't believe the
pay.

It was early in the morning, Lord, I wasn't but a half
awake,
When the Cons went nuts, and took us by surprise.
I never was one for shaking, but I found it hard to
stand,
With a six-inch blade held right between my eyes.

We could hear a siren blowing, somebody yelled in pain.
Then it got so quiet, you could hear a bird walk by.
They all had masks on their faces, and they spoke with
a voice of Cain
"If they come in shooting, then you know you're bound
to die.
If they come in shooting, then you know you're bound to
die."

I turned to a buddy named Willie, I said "Willie It'll
be all right,
If they meant to kill us we'd be half way down to Hell.
See, they high-jacked a plane in the dessert, and the
government screamed and cries,
But to save some lives, they opened up a prison cell".

So the days kept coming and going, tension was getting
high.
But I wasn't too worried, I figured I knew the score.
I knew they were talking to someone, I knew they were
willing to try.
So I figured my freedom was a matter of a day or two
more.

But, Jesus, early this morning, the whirlybird dropped
the gas,
It made me puke and it brought me to my knees.
The bullets came like hail-stones, I heard the first
ones pass,
Then they cut down Willie, and they got Jim Kelly and
me.
They cut down Willie, and they got Jim Kelly and me.

They come in yelling curses, like they were caught in
the River Rhine
Shot down every God damned thing they saw.
And while I lay they wounded, I took another one in my
spine,
Poor Jim Kelly took another one in his jaw.
Oh, Poor Jim Kelly took another one in his jaw.

They say we had our throats cut, by a band of desperate

men,
Say they saved as many of us as they could.
Well the governor he should now it, but I think I'll
say it again
That the governor cut my throat and he cut it good.

Let them take the governor, hold him for a couple of
days.

See who goes in shooting to set him free.
Hell they'll open every jail in the country, they'd
send them on their way
They'd never do to him what the governor done to me.
They'd never do to him what the governor done to me.