

# Le Maréchal ferrant (The Blacksmith)

(1761)

music by FRANÇOIS-ANDRÉ DANICAN PHILIDOR | story by FRANÇOIS-ANTOINE QUÉTANT, after BOCCACCIO

English translation by NICK OLCOTT | adaptation by NICK OLCOTT and RYAN BROWN

folk songs selected from the Alan Lomax Collection by RYAN BROWN

performed in OCTOBER 2020 at the REDDERT RANCH in MANCOS, COLORADO | streamed online NOVEMBER 2020



RYAN BROWN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

OPERA  
*Lafayette*

oil painting by AMY SEVERSON

# Cast and Artistic Team

Marcel (The Blacksmith) DOMINIQUE CÔTÉ  
Claudine (his sister) PASCALE BEAUDIN  
Jeannie (his daughter) SARAH SHAFER  
MacBride, Banjo FRANK KELLEY  
Cody ARNOLD LIVINGSTON GEIS  
Eustis JOSHUA CONYERS

Violin RYAN BROWN  
Guitar ADAM GARDINO  
Bass DOUG BALLIETT

Director NICK OLCOTT  
Scenic Design LISA SCHLENKER  
Costume Design MARSHA LEOEUF  
Stage Manager RAINE BODE  
Props Master, Assistant Director LISA MION

Community Musicians  
ERICKA ALVERO  
ALICE GAUSCH  
NICHOLAS LAWRENCE  
LYNNE LEWIS  
MARILYN KROEKER  
ANDREW SALETTA

# Synopsis

It is 1890. In his blacksmith shop not far from Mancos, Marcel is happily working at his specialty, a horseshoe. An immigrant from France, Marcel revels in his life, marred only by the constant bickering between his sister, Claudine, and his daughter, Jeannette. Claudie accuses Jeannie of chasing after a penniless cowboy, when she should be looking for a rich man to marry. Marcel agrees and decides that Jeannie should marry Slim MacBride, the successful foreman on the area's biggest ranch. Jeannie recoils at the idea of marrying an older man and points out that Slim has actually been courting Claudie, not her. Claudie declares Jeannie welcome to him. Marcel is firm in his decision and leaves, threatening Jeannie with severe punishment if she so much as looks at any man besides Slim MacBride.

Left alone, the women reveal the truth: Claudie is angling to marry Cody, the handsome cowpoke with whom Jeannie is in love. The aunt threatens her niece with a dire fate if she does not give up on Cody and marry Slim instead.

Slim arrives and tries to woo Claudie, who foists him off on Jeannie. He politely refuses the niece and continues his pursuit of the aunt until Marcel arrives and shoos the women away.

Slim has come to settle the account for the veterinary work Marcel has done for the ranch. (Blacksmiths of the day often served as the animal doctors as well as farriers. As Marcel points out, he is often called upon to treat human patients, too.)

Marcel has a plan: he will get Slim drunk and convince him to overbill his employer. The extra money will go to Slim and Jeannie as a wedding present. Only, of course, as long as Slim agrees to marry Jeannie.

Slim is more than happy to drink, but by mistake almost takes a swig of a powerful narcotic that Marcel has brewed up to anesthetize a patient coming in for an amputation.

Disaster averted, Slim still refuses to marry Jeannie, claiming he made a vow on his late wife's deathbed never to take another bride. Marcel will not take no for an answer and refuses to pay Slim a nickel until the wedding is arranged. He takes the foreman away to ply him with more whiskey.

Jeannie is alone, mourning her sad situation, when Cody arrives. She tells him of the plot against them, but he is unconcerned: he can wrangle Marcel like any head of livestock. They declare their love for each other and drink a toast to their future.

Unfortunately, however, Cody drinks the narcotic that Slim had poured and falls unconscious. Jeannie is horrified, thinking she has killed her lover. She panics that her father will find his body in the blacksmith shop. She fears that in addition to losing Cody, she is going to have to face her father's wrath.

Two strangers happen by at that moment: Eustis, a traveling preacher, and Banjo, his sidekick and jack-of-all-trades. They have come to the blacksmith shop for veterinary help; Eustis' horse and Banjo's donkey are ailing. Jeannie prevails upon them to hide Cody's body for her, promising them whiskey to do the deed. It is an offer too good to turn down.

No sooner is the body hidden than Claudine arrives to ask what the strangers want. Their explanation of their animals' ailments drives her to distraction, and she flees with the two in pursuit.

Left alone, Jeannie mourns her loss but hides when she hears her father returning with Slim. Marcel has continued to ply the foreman with liquor, and he is fairly drunk. Marcel tries to get Slim interested in the money by singing the praises of wealth, but the foreman still shows no interest in Jeannie when they find her in the shop. Marcel worries he may have gotten Slim too drunk, but Slim sings of his prowess as a horseman to prove he can handle anything. When Claudie enters, he demonstrates that his interest is still in her, not in Jeannie. Marcel drags him away hoping to sober him up with food. Claudie, left alone, marvels at the growing attraction she is feeling for Slim.

After she leaves, Cody awakes from his stupor and wonders how he ended up where he is. He decides that Marcel must have found him with Jeannie and locked him up with the intention of killing him one way or another. He is resigned to his fate when Claudie enters, takes the shadowy figure for a rustler, and runs to find Marcel.

Jeannie arrives with Eustis and Banjo, demanding that they remove Cody's body from the shop before she will give them the whiskey. Cody, delighted to see her, tries to embrace her. She takes him for Cody's ghost, risen from the grave to punish her for killing him, and she runs away. A terrified Banjo does, too.

Eustis remains, confident that God's help, coupled with his own prodigious boxing skills, will enable him to defeat the specter. He is about to do battle with the ghost when Marcel arrives. Cody hides, and Marcel takes Eustis for the rustler Claudie reported. Eustis defends his reputation as an honest, God-fearing man, but Marcel is about to turn him over to the law when Cody appears. Marcel thinks Cody must be another rustler. Convinced he is surrounded by a band of desperadoes, Marcel tries to stand up to them, and the three men talk simultaneously at cross-purposes: Cody begging for Jeannie's hand, Marcel threatening to take them both on, and Eustis praying to God to help him clear his name.

Slim, Claudie, and Jeannie arrive in the midst of the confusion. Slim recognizes Cody as his nephew and demands an explanation. Cody declares his love for Jeannie and asks her to marry him. She joyfully agrees. Slim sees his opportunity and proposes to Claudie, who throws herself into his arms. Marcel has no choice but to resign himself to what has transpired.

Marcel sums it all up on his own terms: Love is like blacksmithing. You gotta strike when the iron's hot.

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## THE BLACKSMITH

English libretto by Nick Olcott

This text was originally performed in the vernacular. This version is written in standard English and reflects the text as delivered at performance of Saturday, October 10

MARCEL

All night I'm at the bellows.  
I'm here from break of day.  
I'm not like other fellows.  
I work, no time fer play.  
All day long, I grab my tongs,  
Grab my tongs,  
I get along, get along,  
I sing my song.  
Forge, keep heating! Forge, keep heating.  
And the fire leaps higher!  
The fire leaps higher!  
The fire leaps higher!  
While the shoe I am beating.  
The shoe I am beating.  
The horseshoe I am beating.

I like a little tune.  
Helps with what I'm doing.  
Yes, a little tune,  
It helps with what I'm doing.  
It puts a man in fine fettle.  
It gives him guts and mettle.  
Oh, yes clang-a-dang, clang-a-dang  
Clang-a-dang, clang-a-dang-dang  
*(he switches into French)*  
Pa-ta-ta-tant, en battant,  
*(While I'm beating)*  
Pan, pan, pan  
J'ons courage, dans l'ouvrage  
*(I forge boldly ahead in my work)*  
Car le bien ne vient point en dormant.  
Pa-ta-tant, pa-ta-tant  
Pa-ta-tant, pa-ta-tant  
Pa-ta-tant, pa-ta-tant

Car le bien ne vient point en dormant.  
*(Because riches don't come while you're sleeping)*

That's right, I'm French!

Chantant à pleine gorge dès que vois le jour.  
*(Singing out, full throated, as soon as I see daylight)*

J'écarte de ma forge, le sommeil et l'amour  
*(I keep sleep and love away from my forge)*

Un petit couplet graisse le soufflet

Un petit couplet graisse le soufflet

*(A little song helps pump the bellows)*

Chantant à pleine gorge dès que je vois le jour

J'écarte de ma forge le sommeil et l'amour.

Tout en train dès l'matin sans chagrin,

Tout en train dès l'matin sans chagrin,

*(From morning on, with no regrets)*

J'ons courage, j'ons courage

*(I forge boldly ahead)*

Je bas l'fer for d'enfer

Je bas l'fer for d'enfer

Je bas l'fer for d'enfer

Je bas l'fer for d'enfer

*(I beat the iron of hell)*

Le marteau fait tapage

*(The hammer keeps the beat)*

Un petit couplet graisse le soufflet

*(A little tune helps pump the bellows)*

I sing a little tune,

It helps with what I'm doing.

It helps with what I'm doing.

It puts a man in fine fettle.

It gives him guts and mettle.

With a clang-a-dang, clang-a-dang

Pa ta tant en battant pa ta tant en battant

Pan pan pan

J'ons courage dans l'ouvrage

*(I forge boldly ahead in my work)*

Car bien ne vient point en dormant

*(For riches don't come while you sleep)*

Pa ta tant pa ta tant

Here out West, life is rough. A man's gotta be tough.

Life is lot's of hard work, there ain't no time to shirk.

There ain't no time to shirk.

Pa ta tant pa ta tant

With a clang-a-dang-dang, a-dang-dang

A man earns his own keep, he don't earn in his sleep,

In the West, in the West, if you snooze, then you lose.

MARCEL

Claudine! Jeannette! Got to get this place cleaned up. Claudine! Jeannette! Where are those women?

JEANNIE

Aunt Claudine...

CLAUDINE

Oh, no you don't, missy!

MARCEL

Oh, Lord Almighty. They're fighting again.

**CLAUDINE**

By gum, I'll have my say.  
I'll have my say.  
No doggone way!  
No doggone way  
That I'll let this selfish priss  
Get her own way in all of this,  
no!

Marcel! Marcel! Marcel!

Listen to me. Just hear me out.  
Hear me out. Just hear me out.  
Hear me out. Marcel!  
Hear me out! Hear me out!  
Listen to me! Just listen to me!  
Listen to me! Me! Me!  
Marcel! Marcel!

Je veux vous conter cela.  
Je veux vous conter cela.  
Je veux vous conter cela.  
Je veux vous conter cela.  
*(I want to tell you this...)*

**JEANNETTE**

Aunt Claudine!

Oh, Pa! Oh, Pa! Oh, Pa!

Hear me out.  
Just hear me out. Hear me out.  
Oh, Pa! Hear me out!  
Hear me out!  
Please hear me out.  
Me! Me! Me! Hear me out!  
Hear me!  
Oh, Pa! Oh, Pa!

That's no fair!  
Stop talking French!  
Don't you know that I just  
hate it when you go and talk  
that French!

**MARCEL**

Shut your traps now.  
Just stop crowing.  
You got your work.  
Now get going!  
Paix là! Paix là! Paix là!  
*(Hold your tongue!)*

Quiet down! No call to shout!

Quiet down! No call to shout!  
Just quit crowing.  
Work! Get going!  
Paix là!

Ça m'impaciente.  
*(This irks me.)*  
Les bavardes! Que voilà!  
Les bavardes! Que voilà!  
*(What chatterboxes!)*

**CLAUDINE**

Blame Jeannette!  
Blame Jeannette!

This here business, it's all her  
fault!  
This here gal ain't worth her  
salt!  
Sneaking round,  
the brazen thing.  
Lord know knows what all  
shame she'll bring!

The hussy ain't fussy,  
So pretty, so flirty,  
Hooks a man  
If she can  
With her sighs and eyes.

It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
You can't let this go on.  
You can't let this go on.  
You can't let this go on.  
Ain't no way!  
You've got to stop this thing  
right now.  
You've got to stop this thing  
right now.  
It's got to stop.  
You've got to stop this thing  
right now.  
You've got to stop this thing  
right now.

**JEANNIE**

Blame my aunt, Pa!  
Blame my aunt, Pa!

Low-down lying rattlesnake!  
Like to give you such a shake.  
Hope to God your neck will  
break!

Her! So righteous! Oh my, just  
so straitlaced,  
so two-faced.  
Especially when  
She goes chasing after men!

It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
Yep.  
It's all her fault.  
It's all her fault.  
Ain't no way I'm giving in  
You can just stop!  
Ain't no way I'm giving in.  
No, no, no, no.  
Ain't no way I'm giving in.  
You can shut your mouth right  
now.

**MARCEL**

Stop your bawling!  
Stop this brawling  
I can't abide caterwauling!  
That's enough now!  
No more guff now!

Talk! You talk!  
You talk!  
Talk! You talk!  
You talk.

Hush! Claudine.  
That's mean!  
This fighting and biting.  
I declare,  
Just ain't fair.  
Grieves my heart  
When you start.  
Sick of it!  
Just quit!

Hush!  
Both of you hush up.  
Both of you shush up.  
Hush.  
Shush.  
Hush.  
Both of you, shush up.  
You just hush up.  
You just shush up.  
You just hush up.  
Both of you gals!  
Shush!

Quel vacarme! Quel fracas!  
Quel vacarme! Quel fracas!  
*(What a noise! What a ruckus!)*



MARCEL

Ventrebleu! That's enough from the both of you! Get to work! Claudine, you sweep this place out. Jeannette, give me a hand shutting down this fire.

CLAUDINE

I dream of Jeannie, with the light brown hair....

MARCEL

I'm right fond of that song.

CLAUDINE

Borne, like a vapor, on the summer air...  
I see her making eyes at all the boys,  
Casting her spell while they fall for her ploys.

MARCEL

Those ain't the words, I don't think.

CLAUDINE

Many is the cowpoke she's trapped with that brown hair  
And now it's Cody she's lured into her lair.

Oh! I dream of Jeanie with the .....

JEANNETTE

Aunt Claudine, you got no right to be naming Cody in your filthy song.

MARCEL

Who the heck is this Cody fellow I hear you two talking about all the time?

JEANNETTE

Oh, Pa. He's the most wonderful, kind man what ever was.

CLAUDINE

See? Like I told you. This snooty little filly has snagged herself a fellow.

MARCEL

You're one to talk. You got plenty hounds sniffing around you, too.

JEANNETTE

Hah!

CLAUDINE

This gal ain't got no sense! She'll throw herself away on some worthless cowpoke, and then where will you be? You've got to get her married to a man with some money! And right away!

MARCEL

Shucks, that's right. Jeannette here is just about marrying age, ain't you?

JEANNETTE

Why, I reckon I am!

MARCEL

Would you like to get married?

JEANNETTE

Well, to the right fellow...

MARCEL

The right fellow is the fellow I pick for you.

CLAUDINE

What about Slim MacBride?

JEANNETTE

Slim MacBride!

MARCEL

Foreman over to the Lazy Rocking Horse Ranch. Smart fellow! He's been making a bundle at that job.

JEANNETTE

But he's old enough to be ... well ... you! Besides, he's been courting Aunt Claudine all summer.

CLAUDINE

You can have him!

MARCEL

See!

JEANNETTE

I'd rather be single than marry that man!  
Being hitched to an old man ain't nothing I could stand.  
Pa, I'd rather be a single gal for life!

MARCEL

Now, look here, Jeannette....

JEANNETTE

Washing his long johns, and doing his chores!  
Sweeping the cabin and mending his drawers!  
Don't chain me up and make me be an old man's wife!

MARCEL

Allez, ma chère..

JEANNETTE

I don't even like him, he's scrawny and thin,  
Don't make me marry him, I beg you once again.  
Pa, I'd rather be a single gal for life!

MARCEL

You ain't worried about stealing your aunt's beau, are you? She said you can have him.

CLAUDINE

That's right.

That old grey man, he ain't quite the one for me,  
Ain't quite the one for me, ain't quite the one for me.  
That old grey man, he ain't quite the one for me.  
Fellow's too old for sure!  
Fellow's too old for sure! Fellow's too old for sure.  
That old grey man, he ain't quite the one for me...  
Ain't quite the one for me, ain't quite the one for me.  
That old grey man, he ain't quite the one for me.  
Fellow's too old for sure!  
Fellow's too old for sure! Fellow's too old for sure.

MARCEL

Well, that's all fixed up then. Ain't it fortunate that Slim MacBride is on his way over right now to pay me what the ranch owes? I'll make him the proposition, and you two can get hitched this very evening if you want.

JEANNETTE

But Pa...

MARCEL

In the meantime, I don't want you talking to no young cowboys. Specially not this Cody fellow or whatever his name is. I catch you with a fellow, you're going to find out what a hot horseshoe on your backside feels like.

JEANNETTE

Pa!

MARCEL

Hush up. I'm going to go get us a bottle a whiskey to celebrate. You give me a holler the minute MacBride gets here. It takes a right smart fellow to manage a household with two women in it. *(he exits)*

**SCENE I-III**

JEANNETTE

You low-down rattlesnake.

CLAUDINE

You better watch your tongue, *Mrs. MacBride*.

JEANNETTE

Hold on! Dagnabbit, I see what's going on here! You've got a hankering after Cody yourself!

CLAUDINE

And so what if I do?

JEANNETTE

You want to steal him from me!

CLAUDINE

Maybe he's the one who's been chasing after me!

JEANNETTE

Now that just ain't likely.

CLAUDINE

Why not? Maybe he'd like a *woman* instead of some silly little girl.

JEANNETTE

*Woman!* Broken-down old nag's more like it!

CLAUDINE

I'd be careful how you speak to me, gal.

JEANNETTE

And to get me out of the way, you're trying to marry me off to Cody's uncle!

CLAUDINE

I'm a sweet gal,  
I'm a nice gal.

But when I make up my mind,  
You're going to find I'm not so kind.

Stand in my way,  
You'll pay.

Let me say: this gal don't play.  
I'm not one of those gals who's needy.  
But I am a person who sometimes gets a little greedy.  
There're things that I could do  
To get a man away from you.

I'm a sweet gal.  
I'm a nice gal.

But you better have no doubt  
If you go and stick your snout  
Into my business hereabout,  
Well, then, girly, best watch out.  
Best watch out.  
Best watch out.

I'm a sweet gal.  
I'm a nice gal.  
But, see, Cody belongs to me.  
Just let him be or you might see  
What a tough gal.  
What a rough gal.  
What a mean gal I can be  
If you think of crossing me.

No more sweet gal.  
No more nice gal.  
But a gal whose charm consists  
In her fists.  
A gal who twists the necks of people who--  
Like you—  
Like today--  
Get in her way.

I don't want us two to tangle,  
But I swear upon my life  
That I'm not afraid to strangle  
Any woman who is fool enough to think she's Cody's wife.

I'm a sweet gal.  
I'm a nice gal.  
And I hate to give you heck.  
But I swear that if we tangle  
I will strangle you and Cody both,  
Yes, I'll wring your necks.  
Wring your necks. Wring your necks.

MACBRIDE  
Fly in the buttermilk! Shoo, fly, shoo!  
Fly in the buttermilk! Shoo, fly, shoo!  
Fly in the buttermilk! Shoo, fly, shoo!  
Skip to my lou, my darling.

CLAUDINE  
Here comes your fiancé.

MACBRIDE  
Skip, skip, skip to my lou!  
Skip, skip, skip to my lou!  
Skip to my lou, my darling.

JEANNIE  
Come on, everybody!

CLAUDINE

Mister MacBride, won't you dance with this gal?  
Mister MacBride, won't you dance with this gal?  
Nice and pretty and young and all?  
She'll be your lou, your darling.

Everybody together!

CLAUDINE and AUDIENCE  
Skip, skip, skip to my lou!  
Skip, skip, skip to my lou!  
Skip to my lou, my darling.

MACBRIDE

Now look here!

Shoot, well, no! Can't dance with this gal!  
Can't dance, though she's pretty and all.  
Afraid I'm just too old for her.

JEANNIE

You got that right, darn toot-ing!

CLAUDINE

You rude little hussy. You apologize to Mr. MacBride.

JEANNETTE

I was only agreeing with him.

MACBRIDE

Gal's right. Ain't no apology necessary.

CLAUDINE

Get your pa. He got something particular to talk to Mr. MacBride about.

JEANNETTE

And I got something particular to talk to Cody about.

MACBRIDE

What she got to say to my nephew?

CLAUDINE

How should I know?

MACBRIDE

Well, I kind of figured that you knew everything.

CLAUDINE

Oh, go on, you big fool.

MACBRIDE

Did you ever hear tell of sweet Claudie the fair,  
The prettiest gal from anywhere?  
With two eyes like emeralds,  
And rubies for lips.  
A figure like Venus and a face to launch ships.

Hoodle dang foldi dye-do, hoodle dang foldi-day,  
Hoodle dang foldi dye-do, hoodle dang foldi-day.

Come on, help me out here.

Hoodle dang foldi dye-do, hoodle dang foldi-day,  
Hoodle dang foldi dye-do, hoodle dang foldi-day.

CLAUDINE

Now, Mr. MacBride. That's mighty flattering, but I'm thinking you might be needing a woman a mite younger than me for a wife.

MACBRIDE

Well, they may make them younger, but they don't make them no better.

CLAUDINE

Now you just stop that talk.

MARCEL

*L'amour est enfant de Bohême. Il n'a jamais connu la loi.....*

CLAUDINE

Here comes my brother, and he's got something to say to you.  
You make sure you get him hitched to that daughter of yours.

MARCEL

FRENCH: Oui, j'ai mon plan, Claudine. Va te cacher dans la cuisine.  
ENGLISH: *(I have a plan, Claudine. Go to the kitchen and stay there.)*

CLAUDINE

Here's Mr. MacBride, Marcel. I'll just go see what sweet young Jeannie is up to.

MACBRIDE

What she say to you?

MARCEL

Oh, just woman prattle. How be ye, MacBride?

MACBRIDE

None too rough for the ride. Yourself?

MARCEL

As fine as a fellow can be.

MACBRIDE

I come to settle the ranch's bill with you. Show me what we owe you.

MARCEL

Show you? I'll tell you what you owe me.

MACBRIDE

Afraid I'm going to need a piece of paper – what the city fellows call an invoice.

MARCEL

What in-voice? I tell you right now with my out-voice. You owe me forty dollars....

MABRIDE

Now hold on there. I need a piece of paper.

MARCEL

You never did before.

MACBRIDE

Well, the Lazy Rocking Horse don't belong to no person no more. It belongs to the First Colorado Bank of Mining over to Animas City. And those fellows like pieces of paper.

MARCEL

Belongs to a bank, you say? Well, I'd rather do business with a man I can look in the eye. Or punch in the face if I need to. Can't do that with a bank.

MACBRIDE

Well, I can't say I disagree with you much.

MARCEL

Smart fellow! Tell you what. Why don't we have us a little drink?

MACBRIDE

Well, I've never said no to that invitation.

I'll eat when I'm hungry, I'll drink when I'm dry.  
If the hard times don't kill me, I'll live till I die.

BOTH

Rye whiskey, rye whiskey, rye whiskey, I cry.

MARCEL

If you drink that there whiskey, you surely will die.

MACBRIDE

You're talking like a Baptist preacher.

MARCEL



I'm not kidding. That's a concoction I made up for a fellow from up in the hills. I'm cutting off his leg tomorrow.

MACBRIDE

Cutting off his leg?

MARCEL

Nothing else to do. Grizzly done ate half of it already. I'm just sawing off what's left.

MACBRIDE

Well, that's got to hurt.

MARCEL

No, with this potion, he'll fall dead asleep. In fact, most folks would think he was dead. Heart slows down to hardly a beat. The fellow don't know what's happening to him for about half an hour.

MACBRIDE

And then?

MARCEL

That's when he'll need this. Lots of it.

MACBRIDE

I knew you was a horse doctor. Didn't know you was a people doctor, too.

MARCEL

But I am.

MACBRIDE

A regular sawbones! I'll be!

MARCEL

Folks round here know I'm good at horse-shoeing.  
They think that's all I'm doing.  
They judge a man by looks.  
Knowing how to patch up a body that's failing,  
Or fix up one that's ailing,  
That ain't found in no books.  
That ain't found in no books.

Fellow comes to me sick-like,  
I can tell what he needs mighty quick-like.  
He reckons he is dying.  
The end is nighing.  
There's some things I got to mix up,  
Don't take long for me to fix up  
A potion that's so strong,  
Before too very long,

A song like this just busts out.  
Ta la la la la la.....  
Right soon he'll croon his guts out.  
The best doc in this town?  
Marcel's the man, hands down.  
Marcel's the man, hands down.

With ladies I got skills, too.  
Your wife, she's taken ill,  
I will find a way to fix her.  
Ta la la la la la.  
One shot of my elixir.  
The best doc in this town?  
Marcel's the man, hands down.  
Marcel's the man, hands down.  
Marcel's the man, hands down.

JEANNETTE

Please, Pa! Don't make me marry that old man!

MARCEL

Get, gal. We're talking business. Get!

MACBRIDE

What was that about?

MARCEL

Darn meddling women! Forget about them. Let's talk about what you owe me. You can write it all down if you need a piece of paper.

**DUO**

MACBRIDE

Well, first off here..

MARCEL

Well, first off here... Let's drink!  
Now, let me think back. Yes!  
There's shoeing that gray appaloosa.

MACBRIDE

Appaloosa.

MARCEL

This year and last.  
Forty dollars.

MACBRIDE

Forty dollars!  
Well, I declare.

This must be some kind of joke.

MARCEL

"A bargain," you say. Probably.

MACBRIDE

This ain't but highway robbery!

MARCEL

"A bargain," you say. Probably.

"A bargain," you say. Probably.

"A bargain," you say. Probably.

MACBRIDE

This ain't but highway robbery!

This ain't but highway robbery!

This is just plain highway robbery!

MARCEL

Write it down neat.

There on your sheet.

MACBRIDE

What a cheat.

Ain't but deceit.

MARCEL

And then there's treating those heifers.

MACBRIDE

Just what darn heifers?

MARCEL

I treated lots of old sick heifers.

MACBRIDE

Ain't had no darn sick heifers.

MARCEL

Buck a head.

MACBRIDE

I guess I should write it down, see what they say.

MARCEL

Buck a head.

MACBRIDE

Buck a head.

MARCEL

Slug it down!

MACBRIDE  
Man, what a clown.

MARCEL  
Allons, a votre santé.  
*(To your health)*  
Now. About that there blind palomino.

MACBRIDE  
Palomino.

MARCEL  
Yep, that there blind palomino.

MACBRIDE  
Blind palomino.

MARCEL  
I won't charge for my time.

MARCBRIDE  
No fee?

MARCEL  
Free.

MACBRIDE  
Free?

MARCEL  
Free. Free. Free.

MACBRIDE  
What about all those appointments?

MARCEL  
'Course, there's the cost of all them ointments.

MACBRIDE  
The ointments.

MARCEL  
That medicine don't come too cheap.

MACBRIDE  
Don't come too cheap.

MARCEL  
Six bits a drop.

MACBRIDE  
I'm going to need some proof when the bank gets my report, now.

MARCEL  
Speaking of proof,  
Why don't you have a little snort now?

MARCEL  
Come on, just have yourself a drink.  
Have yourself a drink.  
Just have yourself a drink, now.

MACBRIDE  
The bank, it just won't go for this.  
The bank won't go for this, don't think.

Slim, you're too honest.  
Now ain't that a shame?  
You're just too honest.  
You're just too honest.  
Ain't that a shame?  
You're just too honest  
Now ain't that a shame?  
I tell you true, ain't that a shame?  
I tell you true, ain't that a shame?  
I tell you true, ain't that a shame?

No, sir.  
The bank won't go for this.  
Won't go for this, don't think.  
The bank won't go for this.  
Shame!  
Shame!  
Ain't you ashamed now?  
Just tell me true, ain't you ashamed?  
Just tell me true, ain't you ashamed?  
Now tell me true, ain't you ashamed?

MACBRIDE  
What do you mean? Can a man be too honest?

MARCEL  
Of course he can. Rich fellows, bankers and the like, they expect their employees to rob them. That's how they know they're rich. You be too careful with his money, he'll think you're feeling sorry for him and be mighty offended.

MACBRIDE  
Is that so?

MARCEL  
'Course it is. Besides, listen. You might be needing a heap of money real soon. Like, for example, if you was fixing to get married.

MACBRIDE  
Married?

MARCEL  
You ought to hear my Jeannie, the way she talks about you.  
And how she'd like to marry! If only, Slim, you knew.  
Get along, Slim. Jeannie, Jeannie!

Get along, Slim. Jeannie, Jeannie!  
Get along, Slim, Jeannie, Jeannie!  
She'll marry if you ask.

Already you know Jeannie.  
She's pretty as can be.  
She's just the sort to give you  
A happy family.  
Get along, Slim. Jeannie, Jeannie!  
Get along, Slim. Jeannie, Jeannie!  
Get along, Slim, Jeannie, Jeannie!  
She'll marry if you ask.

MARCEL

So here's the deal, MacBride. You stuff that in-voice of yours with enough extras so's the bank fellows pay me a nice pile of cash, and I'll give the whole deal to you and Jeannette for a wedding present. What do you say?

MACBRIDE

Well, to tell you the truth, when my first wife died, I kind of promised myself I wouldn't make a mistake like that again.

MARCEL

What mistake?

MACBRIDE

Getting hitched.

MACBRIDE

LaVerne, in her final hour,  
She was fading like a flower.  
The bells in the church's tower,  
They all started ringing.  
Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong, ding dong,  
Those bells was talking, plain as could be.  
They was talking right to me.  
Ding dong, ding dong.  
"You've got to promise to your wife,  
That you'll stay single all your life."  
Ding dong, ding dong.  
I swore right then and there to be  
Exactly what she asked of me.  
I would stay single all my life,  
And never take another wife.

And so I'm on my own.  
I live alone,  
I can't just now  
Be breaking this solemn vow.

I've really got to, well, I mean I ought to thank your daughter.  
I can't think how,  
Though I'm right flattered, I must allow.

I think back on that ringing.  
I see them bells swinging.  
Give thanks to them for bringing.  
The message that they brang.  
Ding dang. Ding dang. Ding dang. Ding dang.  
You can avoid lots of household strife,  
Without a wife.  
Yes, sir! Yes, sir!  
I must admit that life is good in my widowerhood.  
I must admit that life is good in my widowerhood.  
Ring rang. Ding dang. Bing bang. Goll dang.  
A man can avoid a lot of strife if he stays single all his life.  
And that is why I must decline to marry Jeannie, though she's fine.

MARCEL

Well, that's just bullpucky. If you'll pardon my French.

MACBRIDE

I took an oath.

MARCEL

A fellow only takes an oath so he'll have something to break besides his neck.

MARCEL

On top of everything else, I'm too old for your daughter.

MARCEL

Young filly needs an experienced horseman to handle her.

JEANNETTE

Pa, I really need to talk to you....

MARCEL

Here she is! Jeannette, ma chérie! You was just saying how you wanted to get hitched, and what do you know? Here comes Mr. MacBride asking for your hand! Ain't that a coincidence!

MACBRIDE

But...

JEANNETTE

Pa!

MARCEL

Now him and me, we're going up to the house to talk over how much that bank of his owes me. And we'll work out all the specifics of the wedding. You just give her a kiss, MacBride and we'll be right back. Come on, MacBride.

JEANNETTE

Oh, Cody! Why aren't you here! I need you!

Left all alone in love,  
A gal can stand the pain.  
When he is gone, she can go on.  
As long as there is one thing,  
One thing to be sure of:  
She's going to see him again, the man she loves.

Oh, my darling Cody,  
I always knowed he'd give me nothing to fear,  
But...my heart would rest a mite easier.  
I'd feel a sight breezier.  
If he was right here.  
My heart would rest easier, yes, breezier,  
If he was right here.  
Yes, my heart would be easier if he was right here.

CODY

Will you wear white, oh my dear, oh my dear, oh will you wear white, darling Jeannie?

JEANNETTE

I won't wear white, for the color's too bright,  
I'll buy me a foldi-roldy-tildy-toldy

CODY

Foldi-roldy-tildy-toldy?

JEANNETTE

For our wedding.

CODY

Fine, darling Jeannie, fine!

JEANNETTE

Oh, Cody, I've got the most awful news!

CODY

They said you'd been looking for me back at the bunkhouse. What's the trouble, gal?

JEANNETTE

That old aunt of mine's convinced Pa that he should marry me off ....

CODY

Hell's bells! Who to?

JEANNETTE

Your uncle Slim!



CODY

What?

JEANNETTE

And she's fixing to marry you herself!

CODY

Why would I marry that old crow?

JEANNETTE

So you ain't been chasing after her?

CODY

What are you talking about?

JEANNETTE

She said you was!

CODY

That old sidewinder. I'll fix her wagon. I'm twice as smart as her. Never you mind. I can get your Pa to come around.

I know how to handle  
That stubborn old man.  
He's just an old steer  
That I've got to take in hand.  
He just needs some roping,  
He'll do just what I say.  
So give me my lasso,  
The roundup's on its way.  
Ride around, little dogies,  
Ride around them slow,  
Because I'm fiery and snuffy and raring to go.  
Ride around, little dogies,  
Ride around them slow,  
Because I'm fiery and snuffy and raring to go.

JEANNETTE

Cody! You're making it all sound so easy. If you really loved me, you'd worry a heck of a lot more!

CODY

Oh, Jeannie, gal of my dreams,  
How can you think I don't love you?  
Darling, sometimes it almost seems  
I do nothing except think of you.  
Darling I'm a wreck, my work goes to heck,  
If I think about you and your pretty neck,  
I just expect,

I just expect.  
I'm going to love you  
There ain't no gal on earth above you  
Expect I'll love you 'til I die.

Sometimes at night,  
In the moonlight, out on the prairie,  
I hear an old owl call to his mate  
And she just calls back like a lover.  
That's how I want us to be.  
I want to hoot to you and know that you'll hoot right back to me.  
That you'll hoot right back to me.

Oh, Jeannie, gal of my dreams,  
How can you think I don't love you?  
All day on my horse .... at night of course,  
I always think of you.  
Ain't no man on earth so true.

#### JEANNETTE

Oh, Cody. I was plum crazy to ever doubt your love.

When folks say I'm crazy about you  
They ain't lying.  
Cody dear, Cody dear.  
I'm a fool for you.  
I just look at you,  
My heart, it grows wings and goes flying.  
Your smile and your eyes, they just enflame me.  
Is it anybody's business?  
No, no.  
No, how can anybody blame me?  
So if anybody asks me, "Is it so, is it so? Cody's your beau."  
I say, "Yes, it's so."  
I'm just a gal who can't say no.

If other women find you handsome,  
Well, that's a very natural thing.  
Let them flirt and drop their hankies,  
Let them moon and make sweet cow eyes at you.  
I'm the woman who will wear your ring.  
When folks say I'm crazy about you  
They ain't lying.  
Cody dear, Cody dear.  
I'm a fool for you.  
I just look at you,  
My heart, it just goes flying.  
So... if that old aunt of mine is jealous.

If she wants you for a beau.  
Well, then, she can go ahead and tell us.  
I'm the gal who'll just say no.  
Just say no. Just say no.  
I'm the gal who'll just say no.  
I'm the gal who'll just say no.

CODY

I say we drink to that! And look here!

JEANNETTE

My Pa and your Uncle kindly left us two glasses of hootch!

CODY

Down in the valley, the valley so low,  
Hang you head over, hear the wind blow.  
Hear the wind blow, dear,  
Hear the wind blow.  
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.

JEANNETTE

Down in the valley, walking between,  
Telling our story, here's what it sings:  
Here's what it sings, dear, here's what it sings:  
Telling our story, here's what it sings.

BOTH

Roses of sunshine, violets of dew,  
Angels in heaven know I love you.  
Know I love you, dear, know I love you.  
Angels in heaven know I love you.

Down in the valley, the valley so low,  
Hang you head over, hear the wind blow.  
Hear the wind blow, dear,  
Hear the wind blow.  
Hang your head over, hear the wind blow.

CODY

Whoa, dogies!

JEANNIE

What's happening to you?

CODY

All of a sudden, I feel mighty peculiar. I've got to sit me down!

JEANNIE

Right here!

CODY

Thank you kindly. Now, that's better.

JEANNIE

Cody! Cody! What's wrong?

CODY

My eyes are growing dim.  
I'm feeling mighty sick-like.  
It's looking mighty grim.  
I'm breathing thick-like.  
My heart won't tick right.  
I'm going quick-like.  
Ah, ah, ah, ah.  
The bucket I could kick like.  
Ah, ah. I think this is the end.  
Didn't know it was risky  
Taking a slug of your daddy's whiskey.  
My gal, be brave.  
You best behave.  
Don't let your Pa  
Know I was here.  
And now I fear the end is near.

I love you, Jean.  
Don't want no bother --  
No fight I mean --  
'Twixt you and your father.  
'Twixt you and your father.  
And now I'm dying.  
Don't you be crying.  
It's just my time.  
Ah, ah, ah, ah.  
I'm dying, Jeannie, dying.  
I'm dying.  
You stop your crying.  
It's just my time.  
Here's my last breath.  
A cowboy's death.

JEANNIE

Oh, my lord. I've killed my Cody. And his body's lying right here in the middle of the shop. Cody's right. If Pa finds him here, I'm in a heap of trouble.

EUSTACE and BANJO

Eyes like the morning star, cheek like a rose,  
Laura was a pretty girl, God Almighty knows.  
Weep, all ye little rains. Wail, winds, wail.  
All along, along, along the Colorado Trail.

JEANNETTE

People coming! Strangers. Not from around these parts. Maybe I can get them to help me.

EUSTACE and BANJO

Eyes like the morning star, cheek like a rose,  
Laura was a pretty girl, God Almighty knows.  
Weep, all ye little rains. Wail, winds, wail.  
All along, along, along the Colorado Trail.

EUSTACE

Hello, little lady. We need.....

JEANNETTE

Help!

EUSTACE

That's right. That's what we come to get. Help.

JEANNETTE

No, you see...

EUSTACE

We got a sick donkey.

JEANNETTE

I think he's dead!

BANJO

The donkey's dead?

EUSTACE

Donkey ain't dead.

JEANNETTE

Please....

BANJO

She said the donkey was dead.

EUSTACE

He ain't dead, Banjo. Little lady, the donkey ain't dead. Just sick.

JEANNETTE

Listen, please....

EUSTACE

We need the blacksmith.

BANJO

The blacksmith? The donkey's got shoes. He don't need shoes.

EUSTACE

Not shoes, you fool. The blacksmith is a horse doctor, too.

BANJO

Well, that's good. Because you see, m'am, we've got a mare who's limping.

JEANNETTE

A sick donkey and a limping horse?

EUSTACE

That's right.

BANJO

Where we going to find a donkey doctor?

JEANNETTE

Please, I need you....

EUSTACE

Horse doctor works on donkeys, too. Now just get us the blacksmith.

JEANNETTE

He ain't here.

EUSTACE

Well, why didn't you say so? We'll be on our way, then.

JEANNETTE

No, you've got to help me. You see this fellow?

BANJO

Why's he laying on the floor?

JEANNETTE

Because, I gave him some of this to drink.

EUSTACE

Looks might sick to me. Well, so long...

BANJO

So long..

JEANNETTE

But you've got to help me.

EUSTACE

What the heck can I do? I ain't no doctor. I'm a preacher. Maybe the blacksmith can help him when he gets back. Well, so long..

BANJO

So long.

JEANNETTE

No! Stay! You see.... This fellow came calling on me.

BANJO

Is that how you treat your gentlemen callers?

JEANNETTE

It was an accident! But if my Pa finds him here, he'll have my hide!

EUSTACE

Oh, I get it. Your Pa's the blacksmith. He don't want you entertaining no young men, so while he's gone you do that very thing and accidentally poison one of them. That's a real ticklish situation, all right. Well, so long..

BANJO

So long..

JEANNETTE

You've got to carry him out of the shop and put him somewhere!

EUSTACE

Now ain't that a grand proposition!

Folks will see us two with this carcass!  
They'll think they know what they saw  
They'll think the two of us done the killing.  
And turn us over to the law.

JEANNIE: Just listen, please....

Ain't that fine, so fine, little lady?  
Can't you just see it now?  
The sheriff and this posse coming  
To throw us in the hoosegow.

JEANNIE: No, I won't let that happen!

Wake up, wake up, little lady.  
Know that we don't give a dang.  
This fellow on the floor is your problem.

We don't intend to hang.

JEANNETTE

All right. I won't ask you to take him out of the shop. Just hide him here ... in the cellar.

EUSTACE

No, thank you kindly. Well, so long..

BANJO

So long..

JEANNETTE

I'll give you a bottle of whisky for your trouble.

EUSTACE

So long..

BANJO

So long..

JEANNETTE

Two bottles.

EUSTACE

So long.

BANJO

So long.

JEANNETTE

Four bottles.

EUSTACE

So long.

BANJO

Just hold on there. Four bottles of whiskey?

EUSTACE

What are you saying, Banjo?

BANJO

I'm a saying that's a whole lot of whiskey for a little bit of lifting.

EUSTACE

You reckon we can do it?



BANJO

I reckon we can.

EUSTACE

Let's do it, then.

JEANNETTE

Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you!

EUSTACE

Come on, Banjo. Let's get this over with.

JEANNETTE

Oh, Cody, dear, I mourn your passing.  
You're gone, my darling cowboy.  
Oh, Cody, dear, I'll weep forever.  
Away, you're bound away,  
Cross the river Jordan.

Oh, Cody, dear, I'll weep forever.  
But Pa can't see me crying.  
I'll hide my tears even as I mourn you.  
Away, you're bound away,  
Cross the river Jordan.

EUSTACE

Well, that's done. Now about them four bottles....

JEANNETTE

I'll go fetch them. Oh, no! My aunt is coming!

BANJO

She got the bottles?

JEANNETTE

No! But she can help you with your animals. She knows every bit as much as my Pa.

EUSTACE

That's good.

JEANNETTE

But you can't tell her nothing about what just went on here.

EUSTACE

Well...

JEANNETTE

If you say anything, no bottles.

BANJO

We won't say a word.

CLAUDINE

Who do these two want?

JEANNETTE

They came to see Pa about a sick donkey and a lame horse. I told them you was just as good.

CLAUDINE

What?

JEANNETTE

As Pa, I mean. Not as the lame donkey and sick horse. Well, so long..

BANJO

So long.

**TRIO**

**CLAUDINE**

What you two want?

He jist went out.

He's comin' back real soon.  
He's comin' back real soon.  
Jist tell him all your troubles  
when he gits back home.

That's enough. That's enough.  
Yer givin' me a headache.  
Yer givin' me a pain.  
Hee hee-haw.  
Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw.  
Hee-haw. Hee-haw.  
Yer clippy-clop.  
Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
Could ya jist stop?  
Hee hee-haw. Hee-haw.  
N' with yer clippy-clop, this clip-  
clop, this clippy-clop.  
Jist stop!  
Yer givin' me a headache.  
Yer givin' me a headache.  
The blacksmith, he'll be back.  
We'll let him take a whack.

**EUSTACE**

We want...

Well, lookee here  
Here's a horse that's a-limpin'.  
The left rear leg is trouble.  
Trouble!  
She's limp'in' half the day.

You try to ride her and you end  
up swayin'.

You gotta help this critter.  
She's in a lot of pain.  
It's like this:  
Clippy-clop.

She's goin' clippy-clop.  
Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
Won't stop.  
The whole day long,  
It's clippy-clop, jist clippy-clop,  
Jist clippy-clop.  
The mis-er-uh-ble critter jist  
cain't stop!

A fellah tries to ride the critter,  
and she jist starts in swayin'.

The mis-er-uh-ble critter jist  
keeps on a-swayin'.

**BANJO**

To see the blacksmith now.

Well, lookee m'am, our donkey,  
He's jist mighty sick.  
You try to lead this ass to  
water,  
All he does is bray.

He should be drinkin', but the  
fool starts brayin'.  
Hee hee-haw.  
Hee-haw.  
Hee-haw.

You gotta help this critter.  
He's in a lot of pain.  
Kin you make it stop?

Hee hee-haw.  
Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw.

He jist keep a-brayin'.  
Jist hee-haw.  
Hee-haw.  
Hee-haw.  
Hee-haw.

You try to lead this ass to  
water,  
All he does is bray.

The mis-er-uh-ble critter jist  
keeps on a-brayin'.  
Hee hee-haw.

**CLAUDINE**

Hee hee-haw. Hee-haw.  
 Hee-haw.  
 This clippy-clop.  
 This clippy-clop.  
 This clippy-clop.  
 Hee hee-haw.  
 Clippy-clop.  
 Hee hee-haw.  
 No more hee-haw.  
 No more clippy-clop.  
 I want you two to stop!

Jist let the blacksmith have a  
 whack.  
 He's a-comin' back!  
 He'll be back. He'll be back.  
 He'll be back. He'll be back.  
 He'll be back. He'll be back.

**EUSTACE**

Goes clippy-clop. Cain't stop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Cain't stop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Jist clippy-clop.  
 Jist clippy-clop. Cain't stop.

We'll let the blacksmith take a  
 crack.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.

**BANJO**

The mis-er-uh-ble critter jist  
 keeps on a-brayin',  
 keeps on a-brayin'.  
 Hee hee-haw.  
 Hee-haw.  
 Hee-haw.

We'll let the blacksmith take a  
 crack.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.  
 We'll be back. We'll be back.

**JEANNETTE**

There he lies, my poor dead cowboy,  
 He was my life, my joy, my pride,  
 Oh, but where are you now, joy?  
 Off into the sunset you ride.  
 My dear darling Cody,  
 My joy, my pride,  
 Oh, where are you now, joy?  
 Off into the sunset you ride.

Who'll care about me and my heartache?  
 My Pa? I just can't let him know.  
 I've got to keep quiet while my heart breaks.  
 Can't let my pain and sorrow show.

What can I do now? My life is through now.  
 I feel so blue now. So blue now. So blue now.  
 But I don't dare let my tears flow. Not one teardrop even show.  
 Whatever can I do now?  
 My life is over, done, and through now.  
 And I can't let one little teardrop,  
 Not one, not one teardrop,  
 Not one little teardrop,  
 No, not one little teardrop flow, nor let my sorrow even show.

**MACBRIDE**

Whee-ha!

MARCEL

Watch out you don't fall in the horse trough, Slim.

JEANNETTE

Pa and Mr. MacBride! They can't find me here!

**MARCEL**

I got lots to say in praise of liquor  
And I ain't ashamed to like good food.  
Vittles, whiskey! Just ain't no way quicker.  
Puts a fellow in a right good mood.

MACBRIDE

But know what's even sweeter?

MARCEL

Yeh, what is even sweeter?

MACBRIDE

And makes a home right neater?

MARCEL

What makes a home much neater?

MACBRIDE

And makes a life completer?  
When you can have and hold...

BOTH

...for your own: fistfuls of gold!  
Fistfuls of gold!

MARCEL

A cowboy riding on the ranges,  
As the song goes, his luck, it never changes.  
In winter snow blows in his ears,  
In summer it's the sun he fears.  
And for friend, what's he got but steers?

MACBRIDE

He don't get down .... don't give in.

MARCEL

He's brash and tough, don't give in.

MACBRIDE

Still, back in town...

MARCEL  
With cash enough...

BOTH  
They're living the life deluxe!  
And who, by shucks?  
It's the bankers and all their bucks.

Let's drink to their health,  
Yes, to their health!  
And especially to their wealth!  
Here's to their wealth!

MACBRIDE  
Are you thinking what I'm a thinking?

MARCEL  
Been thinking while you been drinking?

MACBRIDE  
That my banker, he's going to pay....  
He will pay exactly what we say!  
Going to pay exactly what we say!  
Going to pay exactly what we say!

MARCEL  
Going to pay exactly what we say!  
What we say!  
He is going to pay what we say!  
Yes, he's going to pay.

BOTH  
Let's drink to his health.  
Yes, to his health!  
And especially to his wealth.  
And especially to his wealth.  
Here's to his wealth.

MARCEL  
That's right, Slim. You get him to pay what he owes me, plus a little bit more, and I give it all to you and Jeannette for a wedding present.

MARCEL  
Who's that! Jeannette! Go inside and tell Claudine to bring us something to eat and another bottle of the good stuff.

JEANNETTE  
Don't you think he's had enough?

MARCEL

Hush up and go talk to your aunt.

MACBRIDE

And give her a little kiss from me! I tell you, Marcel, that sister of yours is a mighty fine woman. Just thinking about her makes a man want to dance!

MARCEL

Maybe you have had enough. I'm mighty surprised. Seems to me a cowboy ought to be able to hold his liquor better than that.

MACBRIDE

Hogwash. Ain't no man better than me at what I do. Drunk or sober.

MACBRIDE

I can handle any hoss,  
From bucking bronco to pony.  
Every hoss knows I'm the boss.  
I don't take their baloney.  
Give me a mustang to break,  
I'll break him easy as cake.  
For the gals it's fundamental.  
To break a hoss that's temperamental.  
For ladies, for ladies, a hoss has got to be so gentle.  
With my touch, he'll be gentle as a dove,  
Ladies call me the equine God of Love.

But say some rodeo rider,  
He wants him a stallion, a strider,  
A racer, a champion, a fighter,  
Well, giddy-up, giddy-up, giddy-up....  
No cowboy could be satisfieder.  
I'll learn that there horse  
How to tackle a course.  
He'll gallop, and gallop, and gallop...  
Because he's got the stuff!

You got a hoss won't go far,  
Just let that hoss hear my special holler:  
Yee-haw, yee-haw, yee-haw....  
Just watch that hoss that you thought couldn't go far  
Running so far like you never saw.  
That's my yee-haw.

Or, to put it another way.

Je guide sous ma loi le tintamarre et l'effroi.  
(I'm the master of clamor and chaos.)

Si je mêne une Duchesse, une petite maîtresse,  
*(If I'm driving a duchess, a little mistress...)*  
Je touche, je touche, je touche avec gentillesse.  
*(I wield the whip with such gentleness...)*  
On me prendroit pour l'amour.  
On me prendroit pour l'amour.  
*(One would take me for Love itself.)*  
Mais avec un petit maître, je par comme le salpêtre.  
Mais avec un petit maître, je par comme le salpêtre.  
*(But with a young master, I take off like saltpeter [i.e., like gunpowder])*  
Et rou-rou-rou...  
*(and growl, growl, growl....)*  
Avant de me voir paroître  
*(Before they even see me coming)*  
On s'épouvante, on s'épouvante, on court, on court, on court.  
*(Terrified, people run away, they run, they run)*  
Au milieu d'une bagarre,  
*(In the middle of the ruckus...)*  
A m'entendre crier garre, garre, garre....  
*(They hear me yell "garre...garre....garre")*  
Un sonneur deviendroit sourd,  
Un sonneur deviendroit sourd.  
*(Even a bellringer would go deaf.)*

MARCEL

I didn't know you spoke French!

MACBRIDE

Oh, I get around.

CLAUDINE

You want another bottle? You two have been drinking all day!

MACBRIDE

May, be drunk, I may be bawdy, I'm coming after my green-eyed Claudie.

Oh, green-eyed Claudie.

Hey, pretty little green-eyed Claudie, hey.

Hey, green-eyed Claudie, Hey, pretty little green-eyed Claudie, hey.

CLAUDINE

Now you stop that, you big lunk. And you folks, just stay out of this.

MACBRIDE

Wait one minute. It looks to me like Jeannie didn't do what I asked her to. I'm just going to have to do it myself.

CLAUDINE

Now, Mr. MacBride, you just behave.



MACBRIDE

I'm being haved! I tell you, Claudine, I been so shy up until now that my love for you has been at a trot. Seeing you today has got it going at a gallop. Seeing you today has got it going at a gallop.

MARCEL

Hold on there, Slim. You're just about to be my son-in-law. can't be my brother-in-law, too.

MACBRIDE

This gal's got looks could turn a man from in-law to outlaw.

CLAUDINE

Mr. MacBride, you got no call to be talking like that.

MARCEL

I've got to take this fellow inside and out some food in him before he makes a darn fool of himself. I'll sober him up. You just stay away from him. I'll make sure his love hoss goes galloping over to Jeanette.

MACBRIDE

Don't forget that kiss, Claudie. You got one on account with me. Cash it in whenever you like!

CLAUDINE

Well, I never. Been a long time since a man talked to me like that. That Slim MacBride is mighty debonair, I declare. He might be a little old, but he got charms to talk the bees out of their honey. And in French, to boot.

CLAUDINE

Ain't it funny how things can change?  
How your mind can be downright strange?

Right now I find it revealing  
That a man I found unappealing  
Can give me a right funny feeling.  
Here at close range.

Yes, it's strange

That I change.

That my thoughts kind of rearrange.

When I see him at close range.

Now, that Cody don't look too bad  
With that hair and those teeth that glisten.

He's a regular Sir Galahad.

But it's his uncle I want to be kissing.

Guess when love talks, a gal listens.

Now that he's here

At close-range.

Ain't it strange?

How a person's heart can change.

When she sees a fellow at close range.

Well, I best get and give the man some decent food. Marcel's probably feeding him nothing but jerky.

**CODY**

Where am I? Just about almost night..  
Someone's put me in a cellar and pushed me out of sight.  
I'm in a pickle and need to escape now.  
What can I do? Who put me here?  
Don't know how I got into this scrape now.  
I'm in a fix!  
Her Pa must have found me with her.  
That's why I'm in this bind.  
If I was to escape,  
The blacksmith and a posse would be on my behind.  
I best stay put. Even if it means I die here.  
You folks have got to hear my tragic tale.  
You're going to see and hear a cowboy cry here.

**ARIETTE**

I hoped Jenny would be my wife, Lord.  
The one gal I hoped to marry.  
And live with on the prairie.  
Now I'm paying with my life, Lord.  
It ain't right, o Lord above,  
To make a cowpoke die for love.  
Die for love.  
I'm dying for love.

I kind of thought  
That I might bleed  
Under the hooves  
Of a stampede.  
Or a gunfight  
Might do the deed.  
I never reckoned on love  
I'd be lying  
If I said I weren't  
Scared of dying.  
But there's one thing  
My life roots on:  
That I'm dying  
With my boots on.

And it's your love I'm dying for.  
I'm fixing to die.  
Jeannie, please don't you cry.  
Oh, Lord above, I'm dying for love.  
I'm dying for love.

I'm dying for love.

MARCEL

Claudine, je t'ai dit de rester caché. Retourne dans la cuisine.  
*(Claudine, I told you to stay out of sight. Go back to the kitchen.)*

CLAUDINE

Tu sauras, Marcel, que je fais ce que veux!  
*(I'll have you know, Marcel, that I do as I please)*

MARCEL

Maudite tête de cochon!  
*(Damn pig-headed woman!)*

CODY

Her pa can't find me here!

CLAUDINE

Well, I declare. That brother of mine is the rudest man ever.

CODY

Blazes!

CLAUDINE

Oh, my stars! It's some bandit come to steal everything we got! Marcel!

CODY

At least she didn't recognize me. Maybe I can still get away.

BANJO

Oh, Miss!

CODY

Who is it now? Got to hide again. A little more careful this time.

BANJO

You got them four bottles, I hope, miss.

JEANNETTE

You'll get your bottles. Just help me get his body out of here!

CODY

Jeannie! Gal! I'm here! I'm going to take you away from here!

JEANNETTE

Ahh! His ghost, come to drag me to hell! I didn't mean to poison you, Cody!

CODY

Jeannie, you're going to be with me forever and ever!

JEANNETTE

Aaah!

BANJO

Aaah!

BANJO

Well, so long!

EUSTACE

You dangnab fools. It's just a ghost! Nothing to be afraid of.

CODY

Who the blazes are you?

EUSTACE

Oh, Lord, whatever he might be,  
He's going to have to fight me.  
I don't care what you can do,  
I just ain't scared of you.  
I ain't sc-sc-sc-sc-sc-----scared.  
No ghost is going to deck me.  
Come on, Goliath!  
Your dukes up! Just tryeth!  
The Lord will protect me.  
That's right.  
Tonight,  
There's going to be a fight.  
Twixt me and you.  
I am a man of God.  
Don't mean that I'm yellin'.  
I've won fights from the Plains to Pocateller.  
I ain't afraid.  
I ain't dismayed.  
Just because you're dead.  
So what?  
You're dead.  
Don't mean I'm afraid.  
Dukes up, you, Mister Dead Cowboy.  
I can whup you, I know how, boy.  
Sure you're dead.  
Ain't afraid.  
Your dukes up, now, boy.  
Hear your bones crunch  
I'll land a punch

Upside your head.  
You'll be dead.  
Hold on. Hold on.  
Wait a mite.  
Oh, that's right.  
You're already dead!  
Hey, forget and forgive  
And just let me live!

MARCEL

What the heck are those women gibbering about?

That ain't no ghost. That's nothing but a goshdarn rustler.

MARCEL

I've nabbed me a hundred of you pesky rustlers,  
Just round you up quick-like, and move you along.  
My trusty old lariat to hog-tie you,  
I ride you to the sheriff, singing this song.  
Whoopee ti-yi-yo, get along, little dogies,  
It's you're misfortune and none of my own.  
Whoopee-ti-yi-yo, get along, little dogies.  
For sure, the hoosegow will be your new home.  
Whoopee ti-yi-yo, get along, little dogies,  
It's you're misfortune and none of my own.  
Whoopee-ti-yi-yo, get along, little dogies.  
For sure, the hoosegow will be your new home.

EUSTACE

I ain't no rustler, and I'll defy any man who says it. But I done walked through the valley of the shadow of death today, and I sure don't to answer to the likes of you.

EUSTACE

Oh, they nailed Him to the cross,  
Yes they nailed Him to the cross,  
Yes they nailed Him to the cross,  
And He never said a mumbling word....

MARCEL

Don't try to fool me, fellow. I know you're up to no-good.

**TRIO**

**MARCEL**

Stop there!  
*Mon cher!*  
Explain!

Got you! Caught you!  
Tell me what' your name!  
Your pappy!  
Your mammy!  
Your brothers!  
Your sisters!  
And all your kids you put to shame!

You're a rustler, ain't you?  
Hold still, man, why can't you?

This here fellow won't come near me.  
I'll bet there's reason for him to fear me!

Stop there! *Mon cher!*  
Hush up! Speak up!  
And tell your name!  
See, now, he won't come near me!  
He's got good cause to fear me!  
He's here to steal my horses!  
I've caught a rustler stealing my stock!  
I've caught a rustler stealing my stock!  
He won't escape me now!

**EUSTACE**

Now, just listen here!

Listen!  
Listen!  
Listen!  
Stop it!  
Stop it!  
Stop it!

God's my only judge.  
It ain't you!  
I sure don't deserve you're blame.

Listen to me, Lord!  
Just hear me!  
Help me, Father!  
Help me find what my course is!  
Help me clear my name.  
My name!  
You must!  
You must show me how!

**CODY**

I just ain't what you fellows  
think.

Where'd he come from?  
It's two to one!  
I need a gun!  
There's a gang of them,  
I see now!  
You won't get  
the best of me now!  
You won't get  
the best of me!

Please, just don't be  
scared of me!

There's just one thing I want  
from you.  
I've got to do what I've got to  
do!

This is bad as bad can be now!  
Dead and living after me now!

**MARCEL**

Stand back, you!  
Stand back, you!  
Come closer and you're  
through!

I can handle both of you, now.  
One step closer, and you're  
through, now!  
I can handle both of you, now.  
Just one step, you're through,  
now!  
One step, you're through!  
One step, you're through!

I just said!  
One more step!  
One step!  
One step!  
You're through!

**CODY**

Just one thing I want from you!  
Let me marry Jeannie, do!

Just one thing to do!  
I beg of you!  
Give me that gal!  
I beg of you!

Give me Jeannie, do!  
I beg of you!  
I beg of you!  
I beg of you!

**EUSTIS**

Lord, help me here!  
See me through, now!

Show me what I've got to do!

Lord, just see me through!  
Lord, see me through!  
Just show me what I've got to  
do!

**MACBRIDE**

What is this hellacious ruckus? Cody! What the Sam Hill you doing here?

**MARCEL**

Cody? You're that cowboy the women been fighting over?

**CODY**

Yes, sir. I'm in love with your daughter, and I aim to marry her.

**MARCEL**

And who the blazes are you?

**EUSTACE**

I just come to see the horse doctor.

**CODY**

To this place here I'm coming courting.  
I love Jeannie with all of my heart.  
I will marry this gal, she's my treasure.  
So I ask, sir, don't tear us apart.

**MARCEL**

Well, now....

CODY

Come and stand by my side, if you love me.  
And we hope that we'll never say adieu,  
Instead we'll live in this dear Mancos Valley  
I'm the cowboy who loves you so true.

MARCEL

Now look here...

JEANNIE

I've been thinking a long time, my darling,  
Of these sweet words and what I would say.  
Now I know what I'll give as my answer,  
I'm your wife and won't ever go away.

MARCEL

Now just a goshdarn minute....

JEANNIE and CODY

Come and live by my side, because I love you,  
And we'll never again say adieu.  
We'll live here in the dear Mancos Valley.  
Gal and cowboy who love each other true.

MACBRIDE

Well, that settles it.

MARCEL

Settles what?

MACBRIDE

These young ones is plum gone on each other. It's the two of them ought to be marrying.

MARCEL

But it's you I wanted for a son-in-law!

MACBRIDE

Would brother-in-law do just as well? If, that is, this pretty lady is of a mind to marry a broken-down old wreck like me.

CLAUDINE

I thought you'd never ask!

MARCEL

Seems love, it's just like hammering steel.  
All you young ones, you might think smithing is different from love,  
But it's not, son.  
It's just the same, you forge or you woo.



Want love that's true?  
A good horseshoe?  
You've got to strike when that iron's hot, son.

Tot tot tot battez chaud, tot tot tot bon courage,  
*(Strike while it's hot. Be bold.)*  
Il faut avoir coeur a l'ouvrage.  
*(You've got to put your heart in your work.)*

CLAUDINE and JEANNETTE  
Tot tot tot battez chaud, tot tot tot battez chaud.  
*(Strike while it's hot.)*

ALL  
Tot tot tot battez chaud, tot tot tot battez chaud.  
*(Strike while it's hot.)*

CLAUDINE and JEANNETTE  
Battez le fer quand il est chaud. Battez le fer quand il est chaud.  
*(Strike the iron while it's hot.)*

ALL (REPEATED)  
Tot tot tot battez/battons chaud.  
*(Strike while it's hot./Let's strike while it's hot.)*

You've got to give the thing a shot.  
You just strike. You just strike, you just strike while the iron's hot!

MARCEL  
Love, o love, o mighty love,  
CLAUDINE and JEANNETTE  
Love, o love, o mighty love,  
CODY and MACBRIDE  
Love, oh love, oh mighty love,  
ALL  
Let's see what mighty love can do.

MACBRIDE  
Love between two folks of course,  
EUSTIS  
Love between a man and horse.  
MARCEL  
Like that horse's lucky shoe—  
ALL  
Love, oh love, oh mighty love,  
Let's see what mighty love can do!

WOMEN

Love that blooms in mountain air.

Love that city folk can share.

MEN

In Mancos, New York, DC, too.

ALL

Let's see what mighty love can do.

ALL

Love, yes, love can take us higher.

MARCEL

Forged like iron in the fire.

JEANNETTE and CODY

Love for me and love for you.

ALL

Let's see what mighty love can do!

MARCEL

Love, invented back in France.

EUSTIS

Now, this country gets a chance.

ALL

Love, o mighty love,

Let's see what mighty love can do.

Love, o love, o mighty love,

Love, o love, o mighty love,

Love, o mighty love,

Let's see what mighty love can do.

**ENCORE**

Love, but stay six feet way.

Love, but stay six feet way.

Love, but stay six feet way.

Don't find what careless love can do.