

## Yellow Roses on Her Gown

Johnny Mathis

I was born in San Fransisco when the bay was full of cruisers  
Where the west wind smells of fishing boats for fifty miles aro  
und

My father wore a crew cut, he was lean and he was handsome  
And my mother wore a sash of yellow roses on her gown

They would walk me down from Green Street  
Pass cathedrals on the hill sides  
And the carillons could fill the hearts of any one in town  
I remember how they looked then, when their eyes were always li  
ving  
When my father loved a girl with yellow roses on her gown

Then we moved to Placid County where the weather was a joker  
And I watched my parents laughter turn from amber into ice  
But my father never stumbled, he would tell me things would cha  
nge soon  
He would bear and bear the insults of a pair of loaded dice

And my mother stood beside him though her heart was on the hill  
side  
Of a city where a soldier and his lover better die  
And at night amid the whisper of the pines and ...  
She would cry into the sash of yellow roses on her gown

Now my father's living eastward by the Sacramento river  
And he swears to me he's happy with his practice and some land  
In the springtime and the summer when the fog is off the valley  
I visit him on weekends, his grass is overgrown

Sometimes after dinner, I will gaze away the evening  
In the attic at a sash of yellow roses on her gown