

# My Name Is Emmett Till

Emmylou Harris

I was born a black boy  
My name is Emmett Till  
I walked this earth for 14 years  
And one night I was killed  
For speaking to a woman  
Whose skin was white as dough  
That's a sin in Mississippi  
But how was I to know?

I'd come down from Chicago  
To visit with my kin  
Up there I was a cheeky kid  
I guess I'd always been  
But the harm they put upon me  
Was too hard for what I'd done  
For I was just a black boy  
And never hurt no one

Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh

They took me from my uncle's house  
Mose Wright was his name.  
He'd later stand and, without hesitation,  
Point the blame  
At the ones who beat and cut me  
And shot me with a gun  
And threw me in the river  
Like I was trash when they were done

I was sent back to my mother,  
At least what was left of me,  
She kept my casket open  
For the whole wide world to see  
The awful desecration  
And the evidence of hate  
You could not recognize me  
The mutilation was so great

There came a cry for justice  
To be finally fulfilled  
All because of me, a black boy  
My name is Emmett Till

Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh

Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh

Oh, but I'd have rather lived  
'Till I was too old to die young  
Not miss all I left behind  
And all that might have come  
Summer clouds above my head  
The grass beneath my feet  
The warmth of a good woman

Her kisses soft and sweet

Perhaps to be a father  
With a black boy of my own  
Watch him grow into a kinder world  
Than I had known  
Where no child would be murdered  
For the colour of his skin  
And love would be the only thing  
Inside the hearts of men

They say the horror of that night  
Is haunting Heaven still  
Where I am one more black boy  
My name is Emmett Till