

Frankie and Johnnie II [1927]

Arranged by Edward Joseph Collins, composer

From *AMERICAN SONGBAG*, by Carl Sandburg,
author, poet, and Chicago acquaintance of Collins.

1. Frankie and Johnnie were lovers, oh lordy how they could love.
They swore to be true to each other, true as the stars above;
He was her man, but he done her wrong.
2. Johnny's mother told him, and she was mighty wise,
Don't spend Frankie's money on that parlor Ann Eliz;
You're Frankie's man, and you're doin' her wrong, so wrong.
3. Frankie and Johnny went walking, Johnny in his bran' new suit,
"O good Lawd," says Frankie, "Don't my Johnny look cute?"
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
4. Frankie went down to the corner, to buy a glass of beer;
She says to the fat bartender, "Has my lovinest man been here?"
He was my man but he's done me wrong, so wrong."
5. Frankie went down to the pawn shop, she bought herself a little forty-four
She aimed it at the ceiling, shot a big hole in the floor;
"Where is my man, he's doin' me wrong, so wrong?"
6. Frankie went back to the hotel, she didn't go there for fun,
'Cause under her long red kimono she toted a forty-four gun.
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
7. Frankie went down to the hotel, looked in the window so high,
There she saw her lovin' Johnny a-lovin' up Alice Bly;
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
8. Frankie went down to the hotel, she rang that hotel bell,
"Stand back all of you floozies or I'll blow you all to hell,
I want my man, he's doin' me wrong, so wrong."
9. Frankie threw back her kimono, she took out her forty-four.
Root-a-toot-toot, three times she shot, right through that hardwood floor,
She shot her man, 'cause he done her wrong, so wrong.
10. Johnny grabbed off his Stetson, "O good Lawd, Frankie, don't shoot.
" But Frankie put her finger on the trigger, and the gun went roota-toot-toot,
He was her man but she shot him down.
11. Johnny saw Frankie a comin', down the backstairs he did scoot;
Frankie had the little gun out, let him have it rooty-de-toot;
For he was her man, but she shot him down.
12. Johnny he mounted the staircase, cried, "O Frankie don't shoot!"
Three times she pulled the forty-four gun a rooty-toot-toot-toot-toot,
She nailed the man what threw her down.
13. "Roll me over easy, roll me over slow,
Roll me over easy, boys, 'cause my wounds they hurt me so,
But I was her man, and I done her wrong, so wrong."
14. "Oh my baby, kiss me once before I go.
Turn me over on my right side, doctor, where de bullet hurt me so.
I was her man but I done her wrong, so wrong."

15. Johnny he was a gambler, he gambled for the gain.
The very last words he ever said were, "High-low Jack and the game."
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
16. Bring out your long black coffin, bring out your funeral clo'es;
Bring back Johnny's mother; to the churchyard Johnny goes.
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
17. Frankie went to his coffin, she looked down on his face.
She said, "O Lawd, have mercy on me, I wish I could take his place,
He was my man, and I done him wrong, so wrong."
18. Oh bring on your rubber-tired hearses, bring on your rubber-tired hacks,
They're takin' Johnny to the buryin' groun' an' they won't bring a bit of him back;
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
19. Frankie stood on the corner to watch the funeral go by;
"Bring back my poor dead Johnny to me," to the undertaker she did say,
"He was my man, but he done me wrong, so wrong."
20. Frankie heard a rumbling away down in the ground,
Maybe it was little Johnny where she had shot him down.
He was her man and she done him wrong, so wrong.
21. Frankie went to Mrs. Halcomb, she fell down on her knees,
She said, "Mrs. Halcomb, forgive me, forgive me if you please,
For I've killed my man what done me wrong, so wrong."
22. "Forgive you, Frankie darling, forgive you I never can.
Forgive you, Frankie darling, for killing your only man,
Oh he was your man tho' he done you wrong, so wrong."
23. 23. Frankie said to the warden, "What are they goin' to do?"
The warden he said to Frankie, "It's the electric chair for you,
You shot your man tho' he done you wrong, so wrong."
24. The sheriff came around in the morning, said it was all for the best,
He said her lover Johnny was nothin' but a doggone pest.
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
25. The judge said to the jury, "It's as plain as plain can be;
This woman shot her lover, it's murder in the second degree,
He was her man tho' he done her wrong, so wrong."
26. Now it was not murder in the second degree, and was not murder in the third, The woman simply dropped
her man, like a hunter drops a bird.
He was her man but he done her wrong, so wrong.
27. "Oh bring a thousand policemen, bring 'em around today,
Oh lock me in that dungeon, and throw the keys away,
I shot my man, 'cause he done me wrong, so wrong."
28. "Yes, put me in that dungeon, oh put me in that cell,
Put me where the northeast wind blows from the southeast corner of hell.
I shot my man, 'cause he done me wrong, so wrong."
29. Frankie mounted to the scaffold as calm as a girl can be,
And turning her eyes to heaven, she said, "Good Lord, I am coming to Thee.
He was my man, but he done me wrong, so wrong."

