

ODE TO BILLY JOE - Bobbie Gentry (D)

GUITAR / KEYBOARD CHORDS:

D7 = xxo212



C7 = x3231o



Am7 = xo2o1o



G7 = 320oo1



INTRO: D7 X4

D7 **Am7** **D7**
It was the third of June, another sleepy, dusty Delta day
D7 **Am7** **D7**
I was out choppin' cotton and my brother was balin' hay
G7
And at dinner time we stopped and we walked back to the house to eat
D7
And mama hollered at the back door "Y'all remember to wipe your feet."
G7
And then she said she got some news this mornin' from Choctaw Ridge
D7 **C7** **D7**
Today Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 **Am7** **D7**
Papa said to mama as he passed around the black-eyed peas
D7 **Am7** **D7**
"Well, Billy Joe never had a lick of sense. Pass the biscuits, please."
G7
"There's five more acres in the lower forty I've got to plow."
D7
Mama said it was shame about Billy Joe, anyhow
G7
Seems like nothin' ever comes to no good up on Choctaw Ridge
D7 **C7** **D7**
And now Billy Joe MacAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge

D7 And brother said he recollected when he and Tom and Billy Joe
D7 Put a frog down my back at the **Am7** Carroll County picture show **D7**
G7 And wasn't I talkin' to him after church last Sunday night?
D7 "I'll have another piece of apple pie. You know, it don't seem right."
G7 "I saw him at the sawmill yesterday on Choctaw Ridge."
D7 "And now you tell me Billy Joe's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge." **C7** **D7**

D7 Mama said to me "Child, what's happened to your appetite?" **Am7** **D7**
D7 "I've been cookin' all morning and you haven't touched a single bite." **Am7** **D7**
G7 "That nice young preacher, Brother Taylor, dropped by today."
D7 "Said he'd be pleased to have dinner on Sunday. Oh, by the way..."
G7 "He said he saw a girl that looked a lot like you up on Choctaw Ridge."
D7 "And she and Billy Joe was throwing somethin' off the Tallahatchie Bridge" **C7** **D7**

D7 A year has come 'n' gone since we heard the news 'bout Billy Joe **Am7** **D7**
D7 Brother married Becky Thompson, they bought a store in Tupelo **Am7** **D7**
G7 There was a virus going 'round, papa caught it and he died last Spring
D7 And now mama doesn't seem to wanna do much of anything
G7 And me, I spend a lot of time pickin' flowers up on Choctaw Ridge
D7 And drop them into the muddy water off the Tallahatchie Bridge **C7** **D7**

OUTRO: slow D7 - C7 - D7