

## El Paso (Marty Robbins, 1959) (A)

El Paso by Marty Robbins (D @ 107) from "Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs"

El Paso by Marty Robbins (C) (Live, "The Drifter", 1965)

El Paso by The Grateful Dead (D) (Live)

3/4 Time

### Intro (Four measures)

A | Bm | E7 | A | A

A Bm E7 A | A | A |

Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, I fell in love with a Mexican girl.

A Bm E7 A | A | A |

Night-time would find me in Rosa's cantina, music would play and Feleena would whirl.

A Bm E7 A | A | A |

Blacker than night were the eyes of Feleena, wicked and evil while casting a spell,

A Bm E7 A | A7 | A7 |

My love was deep for this Mexican maiden, I was in love but in vain, I could tell.

D A [ 8x ]

One night a wild young cowboy came in, wild as the West Texas wind.

Dashing and daring, a drink he was sharing

D E7  
With wicked Feleena, the girl that I loved. So in anger I

A Bm  
Challenged his right for the love of this maiden,  
E7 A | A | A |

Down went his hand for the gun that he wore.

A Bm  
My challenge was answered in less than a heart-beat  
E7 A | A | A |

The handsome young stranger lay dead on the floor.

A Bm E7 A | A | A |  
Just for a moment I stood there in silence, shocked by the foul, evil deed I had done.

A Bm  
Many thoughts raced through my mind as I stood there,  
E7 A | A7 | A7 |

I had but one chance and that was to run.

D A [ 8x ]

Out through the back door of Rosa's I ran, out where the horses were tied.

I caught a good one, it looked like it could run,

D E7  
Up on its back, and away I did ride just as fast as I

A Bm E7 A | A | A |  
Could from the West Texas town of El Paso, out to the bad-lands of New Mexi-co.

A Bm E7 A | A | A |  
Back in El Paso my life would be worthless, everything's gone in life nothing is left.

A Bm  
It's been so long since I've seen the young maiden,  
E7 A | A7 | A7 |

My love is stronger than my fear of death.

**D** **A [ 8x ]**  
 I saddled up and away I did go, riding alone in the dark.  
 Maybe tomorrow a bullet may find me, tonight nothing's worse than this  
**D** **E7**  
 Pain in my heart, and at last here I

**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 Am on the hill over looking El Paso, I can see Rosa's cantina be-low.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 My love is strong and it pushes me onward, down off the hill to Feleena I go.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 Off to my right I see five mounted cowboys, off to my left ride a dozen or more.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A7 | A7 |**  
 Shouting and shooting I can't let them catch me, I have to make it to Rosa's back door.

**D** **A [ 8x ]**  
 Something is dreadfully wrong for I feel a deep burning pain in my side.  
**D**  
 Though I am trying to stay in the saddle, I'm getting weary, unable to ride.  
**E7**  
 But my love for

**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 Feleena is strong and I rise where I've fallen, though I am weary I can't stop to rest.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 I see the white puff of smoke from the rifle, I feel the bullet go deep in my chest.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A | A |**  
 From out of nowhere Feleena has found me, kissing my cheek as she kneels by my side.  
**A** **Bm** **E7** **A | A ↓**  
 Cradled by two loving arms that I'll die for, one little kiss and [ *Ritard.* ] Feleena, good bye.

## El Paso (Marty Robbins, 1959) (C)

El Paso by Marty Robbins (D @ 107) from "Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs"

El Paso by Marty Robbins (C) (Live, "The Drifter", 1965)

El Paso by The Grateful Dead (D) (Live)

3/4 Time

### Intro (Four measures)

C | Dm | G7 | C | C

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, I fell in love with a Mexican girl.

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Night-time would find me in Rosa's cantina, music would play and Feleena would whirl.

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Blacker than night were the eyes of Feleena, wicked and evil while casting a spell,

C Dm G7 C | C7 | C7 |

My love was deep for this Mexican maiden, I was in love but in vain, I could tell.

F C [ 8x ]

One night a wild young cowboy came in, wild as the West Texas wind.

Dashing and daring, a drink he was sharing

F G7  
With wicked Feleena, the girl that I loved. So in anger I

C Dm  
Challenged his right for the love of this maiden,  
G7 C | C | C |

Down went his hand for the gun that he wore.

C Dm  
My challenge was answered in less than a heart-beat  
G7 C | C | C |

The handsome young stranger lay dead on the floor.

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Just for a moment I stood there in silence, shocked by the foul, evil deed I had done.

C Dm  
Many thoughts raced through my mind as I stood there,  
G7 C | C7 | C7 |

I had but one chance and that was to run.

F C [ 8x ]

Out through the back door of Rosa's I ran, out where the horses were tied.

I caught a good one, it looked like it could run,

F G7  
Up on its back, and away I did ride just as fast as I

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Could from the West Texas town of El Paso, out to the bad-lands of New Mexi-co.

C Dm G7 C | C | C |

Back in El Paso my life would be worthless, everything's gone in life nothing is left.

C Dm  
It's been so long since I've seen the young maiden,  
G7 C | C7 | C7 |

My love is stronger than my fear of death.

**F** **C [ 8x ]**  
 I saddled up and away I did go, riding alone in the dark.  
 Maybe tomorrow a bullet may find me, tonight nothing's worse than this  
**F** **G7**  
 Pain in my heart, and at last here I

**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 Am on the hill over looking El Paso, I can see Rosa's cantina be-low.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 My love is strong and it pushes me onward, down off the hill to Feleena I go.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 Off to my right I see five mounted cowboys, off to my left ride a dozen or more.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C7 | C7 |**  
 Shouting and shooting I can't let them catch me, I have to make it to Rosa's back door.

**F** **C [ 8x ]**  
 Something is dreadfully wrong for I feel a deep burning pain in my side.  
**F**  
 Though I am trying to stay in the saddle, I'm getting weary, unable to ride.  
**G7**  
 But my love for

**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 Feleena is strong and I rise where I've fallen, though I am weary I can't stop to rest.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 I see the white puff of smoke from the rifle, I feel the bullet go deep in my chest.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C | C |**  
 From out of nowhere Feleena has found me, kissing my cheek as she kneels by my side.  
**C** **Dm** **G7** **C | C ↓**  
 Cradled by two loving arms that I'll die for, one little kiss and [ *Ritard.* ] Feleena, good bye.

## El Paso (Marty Robbins, 1959) (D)

El Paso by Marty Robbins (D @ 107) from "Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs"

El Paso by Marty Robbins (C) (Live, "The Drifter", 1965)

El Paso by The Grateful Dead (D) (Live)

3/4 Time

### Intro (Four measures)

D | Em | A7 | D | D

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, I fell in love with a Mexican girl.

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Night-time would find me in Rosa's cantina, music would play and Feleena would whirl.

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Blacker than night were the eyes of Feleena, wicked and evil while casting a spell,

D Em A7 D | D7 | D7 |  
My love was deep for this Mexican maiden, I was in love but in vain, I could tell.

G D [ 8x ]

One night a wild young cowboy came in, wild as the West Texas wind.

Dashing and daring, a drink he was sharing

G A7  
With wicked Feleena, the girl that I loved. So in anger I

D Em  
Challenged his right for the love of this maiden,  
A7 D | D | D |  
Down went his hand for the gun that he wore.

D Em  
My challenge was answered in less than a heart-beat  
A7 D | D | D |  
The handsome young stranger lay dead on the floor.

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Just for a moment I stood there in silence, shocked by the foul, evil deed I had done.

D Em  
Many thoughts raced through my mind as I stood there,  
A7 D | D7 | D7 |  
I had but one chance and that was to run.

G D [ 8x ]

Out through the back door of Rosa's I ran, out where the horses were tied.

I caught a good one, it looked like it could run,

G A7  
Up on its back, and away I did ride just as fast as I

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Could from the West Texas town of El Paso, out to the bad-lands of New Mexi-co.

D Em A7 D | D | D |  
Back in El Paso my life would be worthless, everything's gone in life nothing is left.

D Em  
It's been so long since I've seen the young maiden,  
A7 D | D7 | D7 |  
My love is stronger than my fear of death.

**G** **D [ 8x ]**  
 I saddled up and away I did go, riding alone in the dark.  
 Maybe tomorrow a bullet may find me, tonight nothing's worse than this  
**G** **A7**  
 Pain in my heart, and at last here I

**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 Am on the hill over looking El Paso, I can see Rosa's cantina be-low.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 My love is strong and it pushes me onward, down off the hill to Feleena I go.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 Off to my right I see five mounted cowboys, off to my left ride a dozen or more.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D7 | D7 |**  
 Shouting and shooting I can't let them catch me, I have to make it to Rosa's back door.

**G** **D [ 8x ]**  
 Something is dreadfully wrong for I feel a deep burning pain in my side.  
**G**  
 Though I am trying to stay in the saddle, I'm getting weary, unable to ride.  
**A7**  
 But my love for

**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 Feleena is strong and I rise where I've fallen, though I am weary I can't stop to rest.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 I see the white puff of smoke from the rifle, I feel the bullet go deep in my chest.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D | D |**  
 From out of nowhere Feleena has found me, kissing my cheek as she kneels by my side.  
**D** **Em** **A7** **D | D ↓**  
 Cradled by two loving arms that I'll die for, one little kiss and [ *Ritard.* ] Feleena, good bye.

### Notes

Robbins won a Grammy Award for this song in 1961. Harmonies on the song were provided by vocalists Bobby Sykes and Jim Glaser (of the Glaser Brothers); the eloquent and varied Spanish guitar accompaniment was performed by Grady Martin. The name of the character *Feleena* was based upon a schoolmate of Robbins in the fifth grade, Fidelina Martinez. At 4:38, the song was so long that Columbia chopped a verse out of the song and issued shorter version, which radio stations did not favor. Listeners liked the full song.

# El Paso (Marty Robbins, 1959) (G)

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El Paso by The Grateful Dead (D) (Live)

3/4 Time

## Intro (Four measures)

G | Am | D7 | G | G

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, I fell in love with a Mexican girl.

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Night-time would find me in Rosa's cantina, music would play and Feleena would whirl.

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Blacker than night were the eyes of Feleena, wicked and evil while casting a spell,

G Am D7 G | G7 | G7 |

My love was deep for this Mexican maiden, I was in love but in vain, I could tell.

C G [ 8x ]

One night a wild young cowboy came in, wild as the West Texas wind.

Dashing and daring, a drink he was sharing

C D7  
With wicked Feleena, the girl that I loved. So in anger I

G Am  
Challenged his right for the love of this maiden,  
D7 G | G | G |

Down went his hand for the gun that he wore.

G Am  
My challenge was answered in less than a heart-beat  
D7 G | G | G |

The handsome young stranger lay dead on the floor.

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Just for a moment I stood there in silence, shocked by the foul, evil deed I had done.

G Am  
Many thoughts raced through my mind as I stood there,  
D7 G | G7 | G7 |

I had but one chance and that was to run.

C G [ 8x ]

Out through the back door of Rosa's I ran, out where the horses were tied.

I caught a good one, it looked like it could run,

C D7  
Up on its back, and away I did ride just as fast as I

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Could from the West Texas town of El Paso, out to the bad-lands of New Mexi-co.

G Am D7 G | G | G |

Back in El Paso my life would be worthless, everything's gone in life nothing is left.

G Am  
It's been so long since I've seen the young maiden,  
D7 G | G7 | G7 |

My love is stronger than my fear of death.

**C** **G [ 8x ]**  
 I saddled up and away I did go, riding alone in the dark.  
 Maybe tomorrow a bullet may find me, tonight nothing's worse than this  
**C** **D7**  
 Pain in my heart, and at last here I

**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 Am on the hill over looking El Paso, I can see Rosa's cantina be-low.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 My love is strong and it pushes me onward, down off the hill to Feleena I go.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 Off to my right I see five mounted cowboys, off to my left ride a dozen or more.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G7 | G7 |**  
 Shouting and shooting I can't let them catch me, I have to make it to Rosa's back door.

**C** **G [ 8x ]**  
 Something is dreadfully wrong for I feel a deep burning pain in my side.  
**C**  
 Though I am trying to stay in the saddle, I'm getting weary, unable to ride.  
**D7**  
 But my love for

**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 Feleena is strong and I rise where I've fallen, though I am weary I can't stop to rest.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 I see the white puff of smoke from the rifle, I feel the bullet go deep in my chest.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G | G |**  
 From out of nowhere Feleena has found me, kissing my cheek as she kneels by my side.  
**G** **Am** **D7** **G | G ↓**  
 Cradled by two loving arms that I'll die for, one little kiss and [ *Ritard.* ] Feleena, good bye.