The Cowboy Is Going Insane      2022      J. Ervin

Bronco Billy was a true believer,

Until the mirror gave him Hollywood Fever,

He saw a cowboy on the grand marquee,

Said I should be there, that should be me.

Nuts to herdin' dogies, I could be leading man,

With a sterling silver six gun and a technicolor tan,

Cowboy coffee with a side of ham,

I'd tip my hat and say Shucks, thank you ma'am.

He drove the golden spike for the overland train,

Now the cowboy is going insane.

You had it all before you tasted fame,

With nary a rhinestone to your name,

You were what you were and you did what you did,

You didn't think you had to be Billy the Kid.

Now your reality is Hollywood hype,

You blew your bounty playing to type,

You walked like a man and rode tall in the saddle,

Now you're up the creek without a paddle.

You never shoulda messed with that ol' John Wayne,

Now the cowboy is going insane.

You heard your character was out of fashion,

You worried someone might curtail your ration,

You loved your lawman status back in the day,

Now you feel like something's being taken away.

Cowboy, now you're under the control

Of whoever might restore you to your starring role,

Ranch owner says he will provide your need,

Cowboy agrees to work for chicken feed.

It'll salvage your rump, but you'll jump to the jerk of a rein,

And the cowboy is going insane.

You're on the street when it's time for the showdown,

To face the boss man's foes that you'll mow down,

And though you pleaded to the contrary,

You'll be buried on the lone prairie.

Will there be a constellation for your little tin star,

Or clamor for your legend which has travelled so far,

Fall down, declare your worship of your biggest fan,

You may yet get a little gold statuette of a man.

It's your win and your sin, and your loss as you cross the great plain,

And the cowboy is going insane.