

# Johnny Cash, The Ballad Of Barbara

In a southern town where I was born  
That's where I got my education  
I worked in the fields and I walked in the woods  
And I wondered at creation.

I recall the sun in a sky of blue  
And the smell of green things growin'  
And the seasons chang'd and I lived each day  
Just the way the wind was blowin'.

Then I heard of a cultured city life  
Breath takin' lofty steeples  
And the day I called myself a man  
I left my land and my people.

And I rambled north and I rambled east  
And I tested and I tasted  
And a girl or two, took me round and round  
But they always left me wasted.

In a world that's all concrete and steel  
With nothin' green ever growin'  
Where the buildings hide the risin' sun  
And they blocked the free winds from blowin.

Where you sleep all day and you wake all night  
To a world of drink and laughter  
I met that girl that I was sure would be  
The one that I was after.

In a soft blue gown and formal tux  
Beneath that lofty steeple  
He said, "Do you Barbara, take this man,  
Will you be one of his people?"

And she said, "I will." and she said, "I do."  
And the world looked mighty pretty  
And we lived in a fancy downtown flat  
'Cause she loved the noisy city.

But the days grew cold beneath a yellow sky  
And I longed for green things growin'  
And the thoughts of home and the people there  
But she'd not agreed to goin'.

Then her hazel eyes turned away from me  
With a look that wasn't pretty  
And she turned into concrete and steel  
And she said, "I'll take the city."

Now the cars go by on the interstate  
And my pack is on my shoulder  
But I'm goin' home, where I belong  
Much wiser now and older.