

# Robert Johnson, They

Hot tamales<sup>1</sup> and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
I got a girl, say she long and tall  
She sleeps in the kitchen with her feet in the hall  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes, she got'em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
She got two for a nickel, got four for a dime  
Would sell you more, but they ain't none of mine  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes, she got'em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
I got a letter from a girl in the room  
Now she got something good she got to bring home soon, now  
Its hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got em for sale, I mean  
Yes, she got'em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got em for sale  
(spoken: They're too hot boy!)  
The billy got back in a bumble bee nest  
Ever since that he can't take his rest, yeah  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes you got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes, she got'em for sale

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
(spoken: Man don't mess around em hot tamales now  
'Cause they too black bad, if you mess around em hot tamales  
I'm gonna upset your backbone, put your kidneys to sleep  
I'll due to break away your liver and dare your heart to beat bout my)  
Hot tamales cause they red hot, yes they got em for sale, I mean  
Yes, she got em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
You know grandma loves them and grandpa too  
Well I wonder what in the world we children gonna do now  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes she got'em for sale

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Me and my babe bought a V-8 Ford  
Well we wind that thing all on the runnin' board, yes  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes she got'em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
(spoken: They're too hot boy!)  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes, now she got em for sale  
You know the monkey, now the baboon playin' in the grass  
Well the monkey stuck his finger in that old 'Good Gulf Gas', now  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean  
Yes she got'em for sale, yeah

Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale  
I got a girl, say she long and tall  
Sleeps in the kitchen with her feet in the hall  
Hot tamales and they're red hot, yes she got'em for sale, I mean

Yes she got'em for sale, yeah

Note: some sources credit Robert's brother "Red" Johnson for this song. The melody and chord pattern were widely known and recorded under many different titles by many singers. Probably the best known one is Big Bill Broonzy's Take Your Hands Off Her, recorded in 1935. This song was the only example of a southern medicine show "hokum" song that Robert recorded;  
Note 1: tamales, Mexican Spanish spicy food consisting of ground meat seasoned usually with chili, rolled in cornmeal dough, wrapped in corn husks, and steamed.