

## **Bruce Springsteen - Black Cowboys**

tom: Rainey Williams playground was the Mott Haven streets Where he ran past melted candles and flower wreaths Names and photos of young black faces Whose death and blood consecrated these places Raineys mother said Rainey stay at my side For you are my blessing, you are my pride Its your love here that keeps my soul alive I want you to come home from school and stay inside Rainey'd do his work and put his books away There was a channel showed a Western movie everyday Lynette brought him home books on the black cowboys of the Oklahoma range The Seminole scouts that fought the tribes of the Great Plains Brushed her hair and kissed her eyes Summer come and the days grew long

Rainey always had his mother's smile to depend on Along the street of stray bullets he made his way To the warmth of her arms at the end of each day Come the fall, the rain flooded these homes Here in Ezekiel's valley of dry bones It fell hard and dark to the ground It fell without a sound Lynette took up with a man whose business was the boulevard

In the pipes 'neath the kitchen sink his secrets he kept In the day, behind drawn curtains in Lynette's bedroom he Then she got lost in the days The smile Raney depended on dusted away The arms that held him were no more his home He lay at night his head pressed to her chest listening to the **Bones** In the kitchen Rainey slipped his hand between the pipes From a brown bag pulled five hundred dollar bills And stuck it in his coat side Stood in the dark at his mother's bed In the twilight Rainey walked to the station on streets of Through Pennsylvania and Ohio his train drifted on Through the small towns of Indiana the big train crept As he lay his head back on the seat and slept He awoke and the towns gave way to muddy fields of green Corn and cotton and endless nothin' in between

Over the rutted hills of Oklahoma the red sun slipped and was

The moon rose and stripped the earth to its bone

Whose smile was fixed in a face that was never off guard

## Acordes

