

Tom Dooley

The Kingston Trio

Throughout history there have been many songs written about the eternal triangle. This next one tells the story of a Mr. Grayson, a beautiful woman, and a condemned man named Tom Dooley. When the sun rises tomorrow, Tom Dooley must hang.

Chorus:

Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Hang down your head and cry.
Hang down your head, Tom Dooley
Poor boy, you're bound to die.

I met her on the mountain, there I took her life.
Met her on the mountain, stabbed her with my knife.

Chorus

This time tomorrow reckon where I'll be.
Hadn't-a been for Grayson, I'd-a been in Tennessee.
Well now, boy...

Chorus X 2

This time tomorrow reckon where I'll be.
Down in some lonesome valley hangin' from a white oak tree.

Chorus X 2

Poor boy, you're bound to die
Poor boy, you're bound to die
Poor boy, you're bound to die

"Tom Dooley" is a North Carolina folk song based on the 1866 murder of a woman named Laura Foster in Wilkes County, North Carolina, allegedly by Tom Dula. The song is best known today because of a hit version recorded in 1958 by The Kingston Trio. A local poet named Thomas Land wrote a song about the tragedy, titled "Tom Dooley" (which was how Dula's name was pronounced), shortly after Dula was hanged.