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Cowboy

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COWBOY

HUGO: "... It's as if you were saying you should have flowed all your life like the wind, like the tumbleweed."

STAFFORD: "Yeah"

(*Northwest Review*, V. 13, No. 3, 1973)

I didn't know the gun was loaded
when they said you'll have to
defend yourself now

hell

I thought it was just another game,
I had nothing else to do, I said
right
hand me the pistol

and they did.

They led me gently to the door
eased me out
shook my hand
said it was good weather for cowboys,
goodbye.

And there I was alone outside
on a strange street that led maybe to a
marshal's job in Kansas
a drug store in Paris
a starring role in an Italian movie
an exciting life with the circus

hell

I didn't know,
so I took out my guitar and played
"Nights are long oh so long on the Prairie"
"Tumblin' Tumbleweed"
and suddenly

there they were all those people
on horses I was surrounded the dust had settled,
I didn't even have time to draw I was so busy
singing songs, so I just
laughed
and said

well I guess I lost
that one and they said

right, and took me
away.