1 You've painted up your lips and rolled and curled your tinted hair.

2 Ruby, are you contemplating going out somewhere?
3 The shadows on the wall tell me the sun is going down.
4 Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town.

5 It wasn't me that started that old crazy Asian war, but I was proud to go and do my patriotic chore.
6 And yes, it's true that I'm not the man I used to be.
7 Oh Ruby, I still need some company.

8 It's hard to love a man whose legs are bent and paralysed.
9 And the wants and needs of a woman your age, really I realize.
10 But it won't be long, I've heard them say, until I'm not around.
11 Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town.

12 She's leaving now [be]cause I just heard the slamming of the door, the way I know I heard it slam one hundred times before.
13 And if I could move I'd get my gun and put her in the ground.
14 Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town.

15 Oh Ruby, for God's sake, turn around!