



Before you listen

The singer is a man who was paralysed in the Vietnam War. He is singing to his wife, Ruby. Read the lyrics and put them in the correct order.

Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town (Kenny Rogers)

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

- But it won't be long; I've heard them say,
Until I'm not around

- And put her in the ground
Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town

- It wasn't me who started that old crazy Asian war
But I was proud to go and do my patriotic chore

- And the wants and needs of a woman your age,
Ruby I realize

- Ruby, are you contemplating going out somewhere?
The shadow on the wall tells me

- It's hard to love a man
Whose legs are bent and paralyzed

- Oh Ruby, for God's sake, turn around
Turn around

- Cause I just heard the slamming of the door
The way I know I've heard it slam

- The sun is going down
Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town

- Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town
And she's leaving now

- One hundred times before
And if I could move I'd get my gun

- And yes, it's true that I'm not the man I used to be
Oh Ruby, I still need some company

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIPScxgeggU



Check your answers

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Rolled and curled your tinted hair
Ruby, are you contemplating going out somewhere?
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The sun is going down
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It wasn't me who started that old crazy Asian war
But I was proud to go and do my patriotic chore
And yes, it's true that I'm not the man I used to be
Oh Ruby, I still need some company
It's hard to love a man
Whose legs are bent and paralyzed
And the wants and needs of a woman your age,
Ruby I realize
But it won't be long; I've heard them say,
Until I'm not around
Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town

And she's leaving now
Cause I just heard the slamming of the door
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One hundred times before
And if I could move I'd get my gun
And put her in the ground
Oh Ruby, don't take your love to town
Oh Ruby, for God's sake, turn around
Turn around

Talking points

- Retell the story of the song in your own words.
- Can you understand how the singer feels? How about Ruby, can you understand her?
- What will happen to the couple over the next few months, do you think?