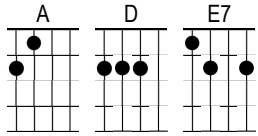


# A Boy Named Sue

Johnny Cash



A |

Well, my A daddy left home when I was three  
And he D didn't leave much to ma and me  
Just this E7 old guitar and an empty bottle of A booze  
Now, | I don't blame him cause he run and hid  
But the D meanest thing that he ever did  
Was E7 before he left, he went and named me, A "Sue" |

Well, he A must o' thought that is quite a joke  
And it D got a lot of laughs from a' lots of folk,  
E7 It seems I had to fight my whole life A through  
Some | gal would giggle and I'd get red  
And D some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head,  
I E7 tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named, A "Sue" |

Well, I A grew up quick and I grew up mean,  
My D fist got hard and my wits got keen,  
I'd E7 roam from town to town to hide my A shame  
But I | made me a vow to the moon and stars  
That I'd D search the honky-tonks and bars  
And E7 kill that man who gave me that awful A name

Well, it was A Gatlinburg in mid-July  
And I D just hit town and my throat was dry,  
E7 I thought I'd stop and have myself a A brew  
At an | old saloon on a street of mud,  
D There at a table, dealing stud,  
E7 Sat the dirty, mangy dog that named me, A "Sue"

Well, I A knew that snake was my own sweet dad  
From a D worn-out picture that my mother'd had,  
E7 And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil A eye  
He was | big and bent and gray and old,  
And I D looked at him and my blood ran cold  
And I E7 said, "My name is 'Sue.' A How do you do? | Now you gonna die" | |

Well, I A hit him hard right between the eyes  
And D he went down, but to my surprise,  
E7 He come up with a knife and cut off a piece of my A ear  
But I | busted a chair right across his teeth  
And we D crashed through the wall and into the street  
E7 Kickin' and a' gugin' in the mud and the blood and the A beer

A I tell ya, I've fought tougher men  
But I D really can't remember when,  
E7 He kicked like a mule and he bit like a croco A dile  
I | heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss,  
D He went for his gun and I pulled mine first,  
E7 He stood there lookin' at me and I saw him A smile

And he said, "Son, **A** this world is rough  
And if a **D** man's gonna make it, he's gotta be tough  
**E7** And I knew I wouldn't be there to help ya a **A**long  
So I **I** give ya that name and I said goodbye  
I **D** knew you'd have to get tough or die  
**E7** And it's the name that helped to make you **A** strong" **I**

He said, **A** "Now you just fought one hell of a fight  
And I **D** know you hate me, and you got the right  
**E7** To kill me now, and I wouldn't blame you if you **A** do  
But ya **I** ought to thank me, before I die,  
For the **D** gravel in ya guts and the spit in ya eye  
**E7** 'Cause I'm the son-of-a-bitch that named you, **A** 'Sue'" **I I**

I got **A** all choked up and I threw down my gun  
And I **D** called him my pa, and he called me his son,  
**E7** And I came away with a different point of **A** view  
And I **I** think about him, now and then,  
Every **D** time I try and every time I win,  
**E7** **↓** And if I ever have a son, I think I'm gonna name him  
Bill or George, any damn thing but **A** **↓** Sue