

A Boy Named Sue (A) Johnny Cash

Intro—A-A

“Let Gray Play First Two Lines”

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

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

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

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

A
Well, I knew that snake was my own sweet dad from a worn-out picture that my mother
had
E A
And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil eye
A

He was big and bent and gray and old and I looked at him and my blood ran cold
E A
And I said: "My name is 'Sue!' How do you do! now you gonna die!!!"

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

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

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

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

A D

I got all choked up and I threw down my gun and I called him my pa and he called me his son

E

A

And I came away with a different point of view

A

D

And I think about him, now and then every time I try and every time I win

E

And if I ever have a son I think I'm gonna name him

A

Bill or George Anything but Sue I still hate that name