

# Freight Train

Elizabeth Cotton

Ukulele tablature for "Freight Train" by Elizabeth Cotton. The piece is in 4/4 time and consists of 16 measures. The tablature shows fingerings (1-4) and chord changes (C, G7, E7, F) above the staff. Measure numbers 1 through 16 are indicated at the start of each measure. The piece ends with a double bar line at measure 16.

[E7] [E7] [F] [F] [C] [G7] [C] [C]

[C] Freight train, Freight train, [G7] run so fast [G7]  
[G7] Freight train, Freight train, [C] run so fast [C]  
[E7] Please don't tell what [F] train I'm on  
They won't [C] know what [G7] route I've [C] gone [C]

[C] When I am dead and [G7] in my grave [G7]  
[G7] No more good times [C] here I crave [C]  
[E7] Place the stones at my [F] head and feet  
Tell them **all** [C] that I've [G7] gone to [C] sleep. [C]

[E7] [E7] [F] [F] [C] [G7] [C] [C]

[C] Freight train, Freight train, [G7] run so fast [G7]  
[G7] Freight train, Freight train, [C] run so fast [C]  
[E7] Please don't tell what [F] train I'm on  
they won't [C] know what [G7] route I've [C] gone [C]

[C] When I die, Lord [G7] bury me deep [G7]  
[G7] Way down on old [C] Chestnut street [C]  
[E7] / Then I can hear old [F] Number 9  
As [C] she comes [G7] rolling [C] by. [C]  
[E7] [E7] [F] [F] [C] [G7] [C] [C]

Elizabeth Cotton composed "Freight Train" as a teenager (sometime between 1906 and 1912), inspired by the sound of the trains rolling in on the tracks near her home in North Carolina. Cotton was a one-time nanny for folk singer [Peggy Seeger](#), who took this song with her to England, where it became popular in folk music circles, and others claimed credit for the song. Eventually credit was restored to Elizabeth.