

A Boy Named Sue Official by Johnny Cash



[Verse 1]

E **E**

Well my daddy left home when
I was three

A

And he didn't leave much to ma and me

B

Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of
booze.

E

Now, I don't blame him cause he run and hid

A

But the meanest thing that he ever did

B

E

Was before he left, he went and named me "Sue."

[Verse 2]

E

Well, he must o' thought that is quite a joke

A

And it got a lot of laughs from a' lots of folk,

B

E

It seems I had to fight my whole life through.
Some gal would giggle and I'd get red

A

And some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head,

B

E

I tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named "Sue."

[Verse 3]

E

Well, I grew up quick and I grew up mean,

A

My fist got hard and my wits got keen,

B

E

I'd roam from town to town to hide my shame.

But I made a vow to the moon and stars

A

That I'd search the honkytonks and bars

B

And kill that man who gave me that awful name.

[Verse 4]

E

E

Well, it was Gatlinburg in midJuly

A

And I just hit town and my throat was dry,

B

E

I thought I'd stop and have myself a brew.

At an old saloon on a street of mud,

A

There at a table, dealing stud,

B

E

Sat the dirty, mangy dog that named me "Sue."

[Verse 5]

E

Well, I knew that snake was my own sweet dad

A

From a wornout picture that my mother'd had,

B

And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil

E

eye.

He was big and bent and gray and old,

A

And I looked at him and my blood ran cold

B

And I said: "My name is 'Sue!

E

How do you do! Now your gonna die!!"

[Verse 6]

E

Well, I hit him hard right between the eyes

A

And he went down, but to my surprise,

B

He come up with a knife and cut off a piece of

E

my ear.

But I busted a chair right across his teeth

A

And we crashed through the wall and into the street

B

Kicking and a' gouging in the mud and the blood
and the beer.

[Verse 7]

E E

I tell ya, I've fought tougher men

A

But I really can't remember when,

B

He kicked like a mule and he bit like a

E

crocodile.

I heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss,

A

He went for his gun and I pulled mine first,

B

He stood there lookin' at me and I saw him smile.

E

[Verse 8]

E

And he said: "Son, this world is rough

A

And if a man's gonna make it, he's gotta be tough

B

E

And I knew I wouldn't be there to help ya along.

So I give ya that name and I said goodbye

A

I knew you'd have to get tough or die And it's

B

E

the name that helped to make you strong.

[Verse 9]

E

He said: "Now you just fought one hell of a fight

A

And I know you hate me, and you got the right

B

To kill me now, and I wouldn't blame you if you

E

do.

But ya ought to thank me, before I die,

A

For the gravel in ya guts and the spit in ya eye

B

E

Cause I'm the sonofabitch that named you "Sue."

[Verse 10]

E A

B

I got all choked up and I threw down my gun

E

And I called him my pa, and he called me his son,

And I came away with a different point of view.

A

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

B

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

E

Bill or George! Anything but Sue! I still hate
that name!