

Boy Named Sue

Lyrics And Tab

(By Johnny Cash)

Capo on 3rd fret (optional)

Intro - G - C7 - D7 - G

G
My daddy left home when I was three
C7
And he didn't leave much to ma and me
D7 G
Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze
G
Now, I don't blame him cause he run and hid
C7
But the meanest thing that he ever did
D7 G
Was before he left, he went and named me "Sue"

Well, he must o' thought that is quite a joke
C7
And it got a lot of laughs from a' lots of folk
D7 G
It seems I had to fight my whole life through
Some gal would giggle and I'd get red
C7
And some guy'd laugh and I'd bust his head
D7 G
I tell ya, life ain't easy for a boy named "Sue"

Well, I grew up quick and I grew up mean
C7
My fist got hard and my wits got keen
D7 G
I'd roam from town to town to hide my shame
But I made a vow to the moon and stars
C7
That I'd search the honky-tonks and bars
D7 G
And kill that man who gave me that awful name

Well, it was Gatlinburg in mid-July
C7
And I just hit town and my throat was dry
D7 G
I thought I'd stop and have myself a brew
At an old saloon on a street of mud

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C7

There at a table, dealing stud

D7

G

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

Well, I knew that snake was my own sweet dad

C7

From a worn-out picture that my mother'd had

D7

G

And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil eye

He was big and bent and gray and old

C7

And I looked at him and my blood ran cold

D7

G

And I said: "My name is 'Sue!' How do you do!

Now your gonna die!!"

Well, I hit him hard right between the eyes

C7

And he went down, but to my surprise

D7

G

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

But I busted a chair right across his teeth

C7

And we crashed through the wall and into the street

D7

G

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

I tell ya, I've fought tougher men

C7

But I really can't remember when

D7

G

He kicked like a mule and he bit like a crocodile

I heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss

C7

He went for his gun and I pulled mine first

D7

G

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

And he said: "Son, this world is rough

C7

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

D7

G

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

So I give ya that name and I said goodbye

C7

I knew you'd have to get tough or die

D7

G

And it's the name that helped to make you strong"

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

