

Boy Named Sue, A

artist:Johnny Cash , writer:Shel Silverstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjtEYt6l2Cs> Capo 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[G] I got all choked up and I threw down my gun [C] and I called him my pa, and he called me his son,
[D] And I came away with a different point of [G] view.
[G] And I think about him, now and then, [C] every time I try and every time I win,
[NC] And if I ever have a son, I think I'm gonna name him
[G] Bill or George! Anything but Sue! I still hate that name!

