

A BOY NAMED SUE

[Intro]

C C

[Verse 1]

C

Well my daddy left home when I was three

F

And he didn't leave much to ma and me

G

C

Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze

C

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

F

But the meanest thing that he ever did

G

C

Was before he left, he went and named me 'Sue'

[Verse 2]

C

Well he must've thought that was quite a joke

F

And it got a lot of laughs from a-lots of folks

G

C

It seems I had to fight my whole life through

C

Some gal would giggle and I'd get red

F

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

G

C

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

[Verse 3]

C

Well I grew up quick and I grew up mean

F

My fists got hard and my wits got keen

G

C

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

C

But I made me a vow to the moon and stars

F

I'd search the honky-tonks and bars

G C
And kill that man that gimme that awful name
[Verse 4]

C
Well it was Gatlinburg in mid-July
F
And I'd just hit town and my throat was dry

G C
I thought I'd stop and have myself a brew

C
At an old saloon on a street of mud

F
There at a table, dealing stud

G C
Sat the dirty, mangy dog that named me 'Sue'

[Verse 5]

C
Well, I knew that snake was my own sweet dad

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

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

C
He was big and bent and gray and old

F
And I looked at him and my blood ran cold

G C
And I said "My name is 'Sue!' How do you do? Now you
gonna die!"

C
(Yeah, that's what I told him)

[Verse 6]

C
Well I hit him hard right between the eyes

F
And he went down, but to my surprise

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

C
But I busted a chair right across his teeth

F

And we crashed through the wall and into the street

G

C

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

[Verse 7]

C

I tell ya, I've fought tougher men

F

But I really can't remember when

G

He kicked like a mule and he bit like a crocodile

C

C

I heard him laugh and then I heard him cuss

F

He went for his gun and I pulled mine first

G

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

C

[Verse 8]

C

And he said "Son, this world is rough

F

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

G

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

C

C

So I give ya that name and I said goodbye

F

I knew you'd have to get tough or die

G

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

C

C

(Yeah!)

[Verse 9]

C

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

F

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

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

C
But you ought to thank me before I die

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

G C
Cause I'm the son-of-a-bitch that named you 'Sue'"

C
(Yeah, what could I do? What could I do?)

[Verse 10]

C
I got all choked up and I threw down my gun

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

G C
And I come away with a different point of view

C
And I think about him, now and then

F
Every time I try and every time I win

STOP

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

[C]
Bill or George, anything but Sue