

I Never Picked Cotton
Johnny Cash

intro: D|-----0-----
A|--0-(1)-(2)---0-----
E|-----3(b)-0

[chorus:]

E *
I Never Picked Cotton
A E A E A E
Like my mother did and my brother did and my sister did
A E **B7 E
and my daddy died young workinF in a coal mine
* E---3-3-0---
**A-0-1-2--
E-----

(up to F and play that chord until...)

When I was just a baby, too little for the cotton sack
I played in the dirt while the others worked till they couldnFt
straighten up their backs

(up to F#...)

and I made myself a promise when I was old enough to run
that IFd never stay a single day in that Oklahoma sun, but
(...back down to E)

[chorus:]

Folks said that I grew up early and the farm couldnFt hold me then
so I stole ten bucks and a pickup truck and I never went back again
and it was fast cars and whiskey, long legged girls and fun
I had everything that money could bring and I took it all with a gun
but

[chorus:]

It was Saturday night in Memphis when a redneck grabbed my shirt
He said go back to your cotton sack, I left him lyinF in the dirt
and theyFll take me in the morning to the gallows just outside
and in the time I got there ainFt a heck of a lot
I can look back on with pride
but

[chorus:]

(also, on the chorus, it sounds good if you strum an Em
and hammer on the G string to make an E on the part before
you go into the verse)