

Ellis Unit One
Steve Earle

Ellis Unit One written by Steve Earle

E

I was fresh out of the service

A

It was back in '82

E

B

A

I raised some Cain when I came back to town

E

I meant to be all I could be

A

Come home without a clue

E

B

E

Married Dawn and had to settle down

E

So I hired on at the prison

A

Guess I always knew I would

E

B

A

Just like my dad and both my uncles done

E

Worked on every cell block

A

Now, things re goin' good

E

B

E

Then they transferred me to Ellis Unit One

A **B**

Swing low

E **A**

Swing low

B **E** (repeat)

Swing low and carry me home

E

A

Now, my daddy used to talk about them long nights at the walls

E

B

A

And how they used to strap 'em in the chair

E

A

The kids down from the college and they'd bring their beer 'n all

E

B

A

When the lights went out, a cheer rose in the air

E

I guess folks just got too civilized

A

Old Sparky's gatherin' dust

E **B** **A**
No one wants to touch a smokin gun

E
They got that injection now

A
They don t mind as much, I guess

E **B** **E**
Put â€™em down on Ellis Unit One

A **B**
Swing low

E **A**
Swing low

B **E** (repeat)
Swing low and carry me home

E
Well, I ve seen â€™em fight like lions, boys

A
I ve seen em go like lambs

E **B** **A**
And I ve helped to drag â€™em when they could not stand

E **A**
And I ve heard their mamas cryin when they heard that big door slam

E **B** **E**
I ve seen the victim s family s holdin hands

E **A**
Last night I dreamed that I woke up with straps across my chest

E **B** **A**
And something cold and black pullin through my lungs

E **A**
Even Jesus couldn t save me though I know he did his best

E **B** **E**
But he don t live on Ellis Unit One

Chorus x2