

## Flatt And Scruggs "Boy Named Sue"

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### Boy Named Sue

Well my daddy left home when I was three  
And he didn't leave much for Ma and me  
Just this old guitar and an empty bottle of booze  
Now I don't blame him because he run and hid  
But the meanest thing that he ever did  
Was before he left he went and named me Sue

Well he must have thought it was quite a joke  
And it got lots of laughs from a lot of folks  
It seems I had to fight my whole life through  
Some gal would giggle and I'd get red  
Some guy would laugh and I'd bust his head  
I tell you life ain't easy for a boy named Sue

Well I grew up quick and I grew up mean  
My fist got hard and my wits got keen  
I roamed from town to town to hide my shame  
Well I made my vows to the moon and stars  
I'd search the honky tonks and the bars  
And kill that man that gave me that awful name

Well it was Gatlingsburg in mid July  
And I just hit town and my throat was dry  
I'd thought I'd stop and have myself a brew  
At an old saloon on a street of mud  
There at a table dealing stud  
Sat that dirty mangy dog that named me Sue

Well I knew that sneak was my own sweet dad  
From a wornout picture that my mother had  
And I knew that scar on his cheek and his evil eye  
He was big and bent and gray and old  
And I looked at him and my blood ran cold  
And I said my name is Sue how do you do  
Now you're gonna die yeah that's what I told him

Well I hit him hard right between the eyes  
And he went down but to my surprise  
He came up with a knife and cut off a piece of my ear

Well I busted a chair right across his teeth  
And we crashed through the wall and into the street  
Kickin' and a gougin' in the mud and the blood and the  
beer

I tell you I've fought tougher men  
But I really can't remember when  
He kicked like a mule and bit like a crocodile  
I heard him laugh and I heard him cuss  
He went for his gun and I pulled mine first  
He stood there looking at me and I saw him smile

And he said son this world is rough  
And if a man's gonna make it he's gotta be tough  
And I know I wouldn't be there to help you along  
So I gave you that name and I said goodbye  
I knew you'd have to get tough or die  
And it's that name that helped to make you strong

He said you fought one heck of a fight  
And I know you hate me and you've got the right  
To kill me now I wouldn't blame you if you do  
But you oughta thank me before I die  
For the gravel in your guts and the spit in your eye  
For I'm the son of a bitch that named you Sue  
(Lester what the hell that you say)

Yeah what could I do  
I got all choked up and I threw down the gun  
Called him a Pa and he called me son  
And I come away with a different point of view  
And I think about him now and then  
Every time I try and every time I win  
And if I ever have a son I think I'll name him  
Well I ain't gonna name him Sue  
I'm gonna call him Johnny Cash

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