

SIXTEEN TONS - Em - 4/4

With two extra MTA verses

AEB 2/13/15

Written by Merle Travis 1946 and #1 by Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955

INTRO: Em(2) - G(2) - C(2) - B7(2) - Em(2) - G(2) - C(2) - B7(1) - MM = 144

1) Some (Em) people say a (G) man is (C) made outta (B7) mud
A (Em) poor man's (G) made outa (C) muscle and (B7) blood
(Em) Muscle and blood and (Am) skin and bone
A (Em) mind that's weak and a (B7) back that's (Em) strong

REFRAIN: You load (Em) sixteen (G) tons and (C) whaddya (B7) get
A - (Em) nother day (G) older and (C) deeper in (B7) debt
Saint (Em) Peter don't you call 'cause (Am) I can't go
I (Em) owe my soul to the (B7) company (Em) store - G(2) - C(2) - B7(1) -

2) I was (Em) born one (G) mornin' when the (C) sun didn't (B7) shine
Picked (Em) up my (G) shovel and (C) walked to the (B7) mine
I loaded (Em) sixteen tons of (Am) number nine coal
The (Em) straw boss said "Well a - (B7) bless my (Em) soul"

REFRAIN

3) I was (Em) born one (G) mornin' it was (C) drizzlin' (B7) rain
(Em) Fightin' and (G) trouble are (C) my middle (B7) name
I was (Em) raised in a canebrake by an (Am) ol' mamma lion
Cain't no (Em) high-toned woman make me (B7) walk the (Em) line

REFRAIN

4) If you (Em) see me (G) comin' better (C) step a - (B7) side
A lotta (Em) men didn't (G) and a (C) lotta men (B7) died
I've got (Em) one fist of iron, the (Am) other of steel
If the (Em) right one don't getcha then the (B7) left one (Em) will

REFRAIN AND END OR ADD TWO EXTRA VERSES AND END

OPTIONAL EXTRA MTA VERSES

5) I loaded (Em) sixteen (G) tons on the (C) M T - (B7) A
(Em) Charlie's (G) still ridin' all (C) night and (B7) day
He (Em) asked me for a nickel to (Am) save his soul
I said "I (Em) got no cash, why don't you (B7) shovel some (Em) coal" - G(2)
- C(2) - B7(1) -

NO REFRAIN GO DIRECTLY TO VERSE 6

6) Charlie (Em) tried to shovel (G) coal on the (C) M T - (B7) A
To (Em) earn that (G) nickel to (C) pay his (B7) way
But his (Em) shovel done broke, Oh (Am) what can I say
He's doomed to (Em) ride for ever on the (B7) M T - (Em) A

FINAL REFRAIN

END: Tag last line of Refrain:

Em(2) - B7(2) - Em(1) - B7(1) - Em(1)
I (Em) owe my soul to the (B7) company store