

CAT'S IN THE CRADLE

by Harry Chapin

capo 1

E **G**
 MY CHILD ARRIVED JUST THE OTHER DAY;
A **E**
 HE CAME TO THE WORLD IN THE USUAL WAY
E **G**
 BUT THERE WERE PLANES TO CATCH AND BILLS TO PAY
A **E**
 HE LEARNED TO WALK WHILE I WAS AWAY
D - **D/C#**
 AND HE WAS TALKIN' 'FORE I KNEW IT,
Bm7 - **D/A**
 AND AS HE GREW HE'D SAY,
G - **Bm/F#** **E** **G -** **Bm/F#** **E** **E**
 I'M GONNA BE LIKE YOU, DAD, YOU KNOW I'M GONNA BE LIKE YOU.
E **D**
 AND THE CAT'S IN THE CRADLE AND THE SILVER SPOON,
G **A**
 LITTLE BOY BLUE AND THE MAN IN THE MOON.
E **D**
 "WHEN YOU COMIN' HOME, DAD?" "I DON'T KNOW WHEN,
G - **Bm/F#** **E**
 BUT WE'LL GET TOGETHER THEN;
G - **Bm/F#** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E**
 YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME THEN. MY

E **G**
 SON TURNED TEN JUST THE OTHER DAY;
A **E**
 HE SAID, "THANKS FOR THE BALL, DAD, COME ON, LET'S PLAY.
E
 CAN YOU TEACH ME TO THROW?"
G **A**
 I SAID, "NOT TODAY, I GOT A LOT TO DO."
E **D -** **D/C#**
 HE SAID, "THAT'S OKAY." AND HE, HE WALKED AWAY,
Bm7 **D/A**
 BUT HIS SMILE NEVER DIMMED, IT SAID,
G **Bm/F#** **E** **G -** **Bm/F#**
 I'M GONNA BE LIKE HIM, YEAH, YOU KNOW I'M GONNA BE LIKE HIM.
E **D**
 AND THE CAT'S IN THE CRADLE AND THE SILVER SPOON,
G **A**
 LITTLE BOY BLUE AND THE MAN IN THE MOON.
E **D**
 "WHEN YOU COMIN' HOME, DAD?" "I DON'T KNOW WHEN,
G - **Bm/F#** **E**
 BUT WE'LL GET TOGETHER THEN;
G - **Bm/F#** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E** **E**
 YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME THEN.

E **A**
 WELL, HE CAME FROM COLLEGE JUST THE OTHER DAY;
A **E**
 SO MUCH LIKE A MAN I JUST HAD TO SAY,
E **G**
 "SON, I'M PROUD OF YOU, CAN YOU SIT FOR AWHILE?"
A **E**
 HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND HE SAID WITH A SMILE,
D - D/C# Bm7 - D/A
 "WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE, DAD, IS TO BORROW THE CAR KEYS;
E D
 AND THE CAT'S IN THE CRADLE AND THE SILVER SPOON,
G A
 LITTLE BOY BLUE AND THE MAN IN THE MOON.
E D
 "WHEN YOU COMIN' HOME, DAD?" "I DON'T KNOW WHEN,
G - Bm/F# E
 BUT WE'LL GET TOGETHER THEN;
G - Bm/F# E
 YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME THEN.

C, D - Bm, E, E, C, D - Bm, E, E

E G
 I'VE LONG SINCE RETIRED, MY SON'S MOVED AWAY;
A E E
 I CALLED HIM UP JUST THE OTHER DAY.
E G
 I SAID, "I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IF YOU DON'T MIND."
A E E E
 HE SAID, "I'D LOVE TO, DAD, IF I CAN FIND THE TIME.
D - D/C# Bm7 - D/A
 YOU SEE, MY NEW JOB'S A HASSLE AND THE KIDS HAVE THE FLU
G - Bm/F# E
 BUT IT'S SURE NICE TALKIN' TO YOU, DAD.
G - Bm/F# E E
 IT'S BEEN SURE NICE TALKIN' TO YOU."
D - D/C# Bm7 - D/A
 AND AS I HUNG UP THE PHONE, IT OCCURRED TO ME
G - Bm/F# E G - Bm/F# E E
 HE'D GROWN UP JUST LIKE ME; MY BOY WAS JUST LIKE ME.
E D
 AND THE CAT'S IN THE CRADLE AND THE SILVER SPOON,
G A
 LITTLE BOY BLUE AND THE MAN IN THE MOON.
E D
 "WHEN YOU COMIN' HOME, DAD?" "I DON'T KNOW WHEN,
G - Bm/F# E
 BUT WE'LL GET TOGETHER THEN;
G - Bm/F# E E E E E
 YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME THEN.