

# **BILLY THE BUM**

John Prine

[Bb] [F] [C] [F]  
F C  
BILLY THE BUM LIVED BY THE THUMB AND SANG OF THE HOBO'S DELIGHT  
C C  
HE'D PROVE HE COULD RUN TWICE AS FAST AS THE SUN  
C F  
BY LOSING HIS SHADOW AT NIGHT  
F F  
NOW HE LOVED EVERY GIRL IN THIS CURLY HEADED WORLD  
F Bb  
BUT NO ONE WILL KNOW IT SEEMS  
Bb F  
FOR TWO TWISTED LEGS AND A CHILDHOOD DISEASE  
C F  
LEFT BILLY JUST A BUM IN HIS DREAMS

## **Chorus:**

Bb F C F  
AND HE WAS JUST A GENTLE BOY A REAL FLORESCENT LIGHT  
Bb F C  
CRIED PENNIES ON SUNDAY MORNING; LAUGH NICKELS ON SATURDAY NIGHT  
F F7 Bb  
AND YOUR BULLETS THEY CAN'T HARM HIM NOR YOUR KNIVES TEAR HIM APART  
F C F Bb, F, C, F  
HUMILIATION KILLED HIM; GOD BLESS HIS LITTLE HEART

F  
NOW HE LIVED ALL ALONE IN A RUN DOWN HOME  
C  
NEAR THE SIDE OF THE OLD RAILROAD TRACK  
C C  
WHERE THE TRAINS USED TO RUN CARRYING FREIGHT BY THE TON  
C C F  
AND BLOW THE WHISTLE AS BILLY'D WAVE BACK  
F F  
BUT THE CHILDREN AROUND BILLY'S HOMETOWN  
F Bb  
SEEMED TO HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO  
Bb F  
THAN TO RUN AROUND HIS HOUSE WITH TONGUES FROM THEIR MOUTH  
C F  
AND MAKE FUN OF THAT CRIPPLED OLD FOOL

## **Repeat Chorus:**

F C  
NOW SOME FOLKS THEY WAIT AND SOME FOLK THEY PRAY FOR JESUS TO RISE UP AGAIN  
C C F  
BUT NONE OF THESE FOLKS IN THE HOLY CLOAKS EVER TOOK BILLY ON AS A FRIEND  
F F F BB  
FOR PITY'S A CRIME AND IT AIN'T WORTH A DIME TO A PERSON WHO'S REALLY IN NEED  
F  
JUST TREAT 'EM THE SAME AS YOU WOULD YOU OWN NAME  
C F  
NEXT TIME THAT YOUR HEART STARTS TO BLEED

**Repeat chorus:**

If you have corrections, or the chords to any of these songs, please send an e-mail and we will make the changes as soon as possible. Thank you. This song chart was provided for your personal enjoyment by SPIKE'S MUSIC COLLECTION; <http://spikesmusic.spike-jamie.com> SHALOM, from SPIKE & JAMIE