

# I Never Picked Cotton

Johnny Cash

I never picked cotton But my mother did And my brother did And  
my sister did And my daddy died young Workin' in the coal mine

When I was just a baby Too little for a cotton sack I played in  
the dirt While the others worked 'Til they couldn't straighten  
up their backs I made myself a promise When I was big enough to  
run That I'd never stay a single day In that Oklahoma sun

Folks said I grew up early And that the farm couldn't hold me then  
so I stole ten bucks and a pickup truck And I never went back again  
Then it was fast cars and whiskey Long haired girls and fun I had  
everything that money could bring And I took it all with a gun

It was Saturday night in Memphis When a redneck grabbed my shirt  
When he said go back to your cotton sack I left him dying in  
the dirt They'll take me in the morning To the gallos just outside  
And in the time I got There ain't a hell of a lot That I can  
look back on with pride