

Railroad Bill

(Etta Baker version)

Words & Music:
Traditional American

Etta Baker's version of this song is iconic and transcribed in the February 2007 issue of Acoustic Guitar. Well worth learning!

C
Well, Railroad Bill, Railroad Bill,
E7 F
He never worked and he never will,
C G C
Ride, ride, ride.

Railroad Bill, Railroad Bill,
Live way up on Railroad Hill.
Ride, ride, ride.

Well, Railroad Bill, he was a mighty mean man.
He shot the midnight lantern out of the brakeman's hand.
Ride, ride, ride.

Well, Railroad Bill, he took my wife.
He said if I didn't like it he would take my life.
Ride, ride, ride.

I'll buy me a pistol just as long as my arm
Kill everybody ever done me harm
Ride, ride, ride

Well, I'm going up on a mountain, I'm going out West,
A .38 Special stickin' out of my vest.
Ride, ride, ride.

I got a .38 Special on a .45 frame.
How in the world can I miss him when I got dead aim?
Ride, ride, ride.

Well, honey, honey, do you think I'm a fool?
I wouldn't quit you when the weather is cool.
Ride, ride, ride.