

## Folsom Prison Blues (G)

by Johnny Cash

Cash was inspired to write this song after seeing the movie [Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison](#) (1951) while serving in [West Germany](#) in the [United States Air Force](#). Cash recounted how he came up with the "Reno" line: "I sat with my pen in my hand, trying to think up the worst reason a person could have for killing another person, and that's what came to mind."

G  
I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend  
G7  
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when  
C G  
I'm stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging on  
D7 G  
But that train keeps rolling on down to San Antone

When I was just a baby my mama told me Son  
G7  
Always be a good boy don't ever play with guns  
C G  
But I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die  
D7 G  
When I hear that whistle blowing I hang my head and cry

I bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car  
G7  
They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars  
C G  
But I know I had it coming I know I can't be free  
D7 G  
But those people keep a moving and that's what tortures me

Well if they freed me from this prison if that railroad train was mine  
G7  
I bet I'd move on over a little farther down the line  
C G  
Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to stay  
D7 G  
And I'd let that lonesome whistle blow my blues away