

# 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**  
 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**  
 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**  
 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.

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**SHALOM, from  
SPIKE and JAMIE**