

# Cat's In the Cradle

Harry Chapin

## Chords/Key

Key: **A / F#m** Chords: I **A** II **Bm** III **C#m** IV **D** V **E** VI **F#m** VII **G#m7(b5)** No. # or b **3**  
[ Originally in "A#", starting on "F" ]

### Intro

| **E** | **E** | **D** | **G Bm E** / | **E** |

### Verse #1

**E G A E**  
My child arrived just the other day, he came into the world in the usual way  
**E G A E**  
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay, he learned to walk while I was away  
**D C#m Bm A**  
And he was talking 'for I knew it and as he grew  
**G Bm E G Bm E**  
He said "I'm gonna be like you Dad, you know I'm gonna be like you"

### Chorus

**E D G A**  
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
**E D G Bm E**  
When you comin' home Dad, I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
**G Bm E**  
You know we'll have a good time then

### Verse #2

**E G A E**  
My son turned ten just the other day, He said "Thanks for the ball dad, come on let's play"  
**E G A E**  
"Can you teach me to throw" I said "Not today, I got a lot to do" He said "Thats OK"  
**D C#m Bm A**  
He walked away but his smile never dimmed  
**G Bm E G Bm E**  
It said "I'm gonna be like him, yeah, You know I'm gonna be like him"

### Chorus

**E D G A**  
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
**E D G Bm E**  
When you comin' home Dad, I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
**G Bm E**  
You know we'll have a good time then

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## Verse #3

**E** **G** **A** **E**  
Well he came home from college just the other day, so much like a man I just had to say  
**E** **G** **A** **E**  
"Son I'm proud of you can you sit for a while?", He shook his head and he said with a smile,  
**D** **C#m** **Bm** **A**  
"What I'd really like dad is to borrow the car keys,  
**G** **Bm** **E**  
See you later can I have them please?"

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## Chorus

**E** **D** **G** **A**  
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
**E** **D** **G** **Bm** **E**  
When you comin' home Dad, I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
**G** **Bm** **E**  
You know we'll have a good time then

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## Verse #4

**E** **G** **A** **E**  
I've long since retired, my son's moved away, I called him up just the other day  
**E** **G** **A** **E**  
I said "I'd like to see you if you don't mind", He said "I'd love to dad if I could find the time,  
**D** **C#m** **Bm** **A**  
You see the my new job's a hassle and the kids have the flu  
**G** **Bm** **E** **G** **Bm** **E**  
But it's sure nice talkin' to you dad, It's sure nice talkin' to you"

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## Chorus

**E** **D** **G** **A**  
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
**E** **D** **G** **Bm** **E**  
When you comin' home Dad, I don't know when, but we'll get together then  
**G** **Bm** **E**  
You know we'll have a good time then

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## Verse Ending

[ slower ]

**D** **C#m** **Bm** **A**  
And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me,  
**G** **Bm** **E** **G** **Bm** **E**  
He'd grown up just like me, My boy was just like me

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## Final Chorus

[ full speed ]

**E** **D** **G** **A**  
And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon  
**E** **D** **G** **Bm** **E**  
When you comin' home son, I don't know when, but we'll get together then Dad,  
**G** **Bm** **E**  
We're gonna have a good time then