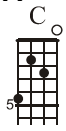


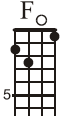
# Song for a Deckhand's Daughter

written and performed by James McMurtry  
mandolin chord arrangement by John Tauxe: <http://mando.tauxe.net>

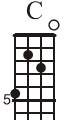
## A



He'd always whistle *Jolie Blonde*



On his way out the back door on a Friday night



So many times he just stayed gone

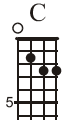
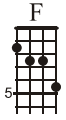


And rarely did he try to treat your Mama right

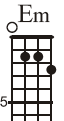
## B



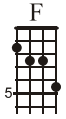
Shut off the tractor with the field half mowed



Set the brake and headed down the road

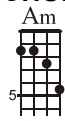


Came home for Christmas, never said where he'd been

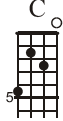
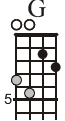


With no presents for the children, only stories for the men

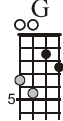
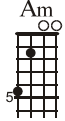
## CHORUS



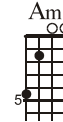
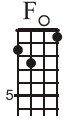
Still your Mama called him Daddy



She never told him no



Said she couldn't help but love him



You wondered how it could be so

## A

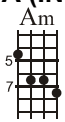
He'd work two weeks out on a river barge  
She worked in the factory, never missed a day  
He'd spend his week off holding up the bar  
Never took him long to drink a deck hand's pay

## B

Wind off the river cut the lines on his face  
And left him dreaming of some other place  
Maybe Memphis town or Baton Rouge  
When it's cold in Cape Girardeau there's nothing much to do

## CHORUS

### A (INSTRUMENTAL)



[repeat]

## B

And if his suitcase wasn't standing in the hall  
He might not be coming home at all  
All the sides of him you never knew before  
Would be drifting down the river to another back door

### CHORUS [slightly different lyric]

Still your Mama called him Daddy  
She couldn't tell him no  
Said she couldn't help but love a man like that  
You wondered how it could be so

## OUTRO

Am C/B C