

Goodnight Irene

by Huddie William (Lead Belly) Ledbetter (1933)

E *B* *B* *E*
Irene goodnight, Irene; Irene goodnight
E7 *A* *B7* *A*
Goodnight Irene, goodnight Irene, I'll see you in my dreams.

Sometimes I live in the country, sometimes I live in town,
Sometimes I have a great notion to jump in the river and drown.

I asked your mother for you, she told me you was too young
I wish, dear Lord, I'd never seen your face; I'm sorry you was ever born.

You cause me to weep, you cause me to mourn, you cause me to leave my home.
But the very last words I heard her say was "Please sing me one more song."

I love Irene, God knows I do, I'll love her 'til the seas run dry.
And if Irene turns her back on me, I'll take morphine and die.

Stop your rambling, stop your gambling, don't stay out late at night,
Go home to your wife and family, stay there by the fireside bright.

Alternate chords and verses

Sometimes Irene sleeps in pajamas, sometimes she sleeps in a gown
But when they're both in the laundry, Irene's the talk of the town

Some folks they like their sugar, some folks they like their wine
Some folks love their music and they sing it all the time

C *Adim* *G7* *C*
Irene goodnight Irene, Irene goodnight,
C(½) *C7(½)* *F(½)* *Dm(½)* *7*
Goodnight Irene, goodnight Irene,
G7 *C*
I'll see you in my dreams.