

Goodnight Irene

Huddie 'Leadbelly' Ledbetter (1933)

Standard also recorded/performed by: The Weavers, Frank Sinatra, Ernest Tubb, Eric Clapton, Johnny Cash, Tom Waits, Ry Cooder, Mississippi John Hurt, Nat King Cole, Pete Seeger, and many others. Tune may date back to late 19th century.

I V7 I I7 IV
Irene, goodnight; Irene, goodnight. Goodnight Irene; goodnight Irene.
V7 I
I'll see you in my dreams.

I V7 I
Last Saturday night I got married; me and my wife settled down.
I7 IV V7 I (V7)
Now me and my wife have parted; gonna take another stroll down town. (Chorus)

I V7 I
Sometimes I live in the country, sometimes I live in the town.
I7 IV V7 I
Sometimes I have a great notion to jump into the river and drown. (Chorus)

I V7 I
Quit your ramblin' and quit your gamblin', quit stayin' out late at night.
I7 IV V7 I
Stay home with your wife and family. Sit down by the fireside bright. (Chorus)

I V7 I
Some folks they like their sugar. Some folks they like their wine.
I7 IV V7 I
Some folks love their music, and they sing it all the time. (Chorus)

I V7 I
I asked your mother for you, she told me that you were too young.
I7 IV V7 I
I wished to God I'd never seen your face, I'm sorry you ever were born. (Chorus)

I V7 I
I love Irene, God knows I do. I'll love her 'till the seas run dry.
I7 IV V7 I
And if Irene turns her back on me, I'd take morphine and die. (Chorus)

I V7 I
You cause me to weep, you cause me to mourn. You cause me to leave my home.
I7 IV V7 I
But the very last words I heard her say, was, "please sing me one more song." (Chorus)

* As is common with traditional songs, there are many verses. Performers select which verses to include.