

Intro: Am // F // E7 // (2x)

16 Tons! written by Merle Travis

Sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford

Am F E7
Some people say, a man is made out of mud.

Am F E7
A poor man's made out of muscle and blood.

Am Dm
Muscle and blood, and skin and bones,

Am.....(tacit)..... E7 Am
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong.

Am F E7
You load 16- tons, and what do you get?

Am F E7
Another day older and deeper in debt.

Am Dm
St. Peter don't you call me, 'cause I can't go.

Am.....(tacit)..... E7 Am AmE7 Am
I owe my soul to the company store.

Chorus

Am F E7
I was born one morning, when the sun didn't shine.

Am F E7
I picked up my shovel, and I walked to the mine.

Am Dm
I loaded 16- tons of number nine coal.

Am.....(tacit)..... E7 Am (Chorus)
And the straw boss said, " well, bless my soul!"

Am F E7
I was born one mornin' it was drizzlin' rain.

Am F E7
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name.

Am Dm
I was raised in a cane-break by an ol' mama lion.

Am.....(tacit)..... E7 Am (Chorus)
Can't no high-toned woman make me walk the line.

Am F E7
If you see me coming, better step a-side.

Am F E7
A lot of men didn 't, and a lot o f men died.

Am Dm
One fist of iron, the other of steel.

Am.....(tacit)..... E7 Am (Chorus)
If the right one don't get you, then the left one will!

