

On The Nickel – Tom Waits

Strumming Pattern: D, D, DU

This one is VERY TRICKY and VERY hard to sing.

Chords Used (all barre chords, but they repeat)

B
 F# B F# B Eb F#

Gb / F#
 F# C# F# Bb C# F#

(X) **Ebm**
 A# F A# D# F# A#

Abm
 Ab Eb Ab B Eb Ab

(X) **C#**
 G# C# G# C# F G#

Ab
 Ab Eb Ab C Eb Ab

Intro: B - F# - B - F# | B - F# - Ebm - Abm - C# - F#

Verse 1:

B F#
 Stick and stones may break my bones,
 B F#
 but I always will be true,
 B F# Ebm
 And when your mama is dead and gone,
 Abm C#
 I'll sing this lullaby just for you.
 B F#
 And what becomes of all the little boys,
 B F#
 who never comb their hair?
 B Ab F# Ebm
 Well they're lined up all around the block
 Abm C# F#
 On the Nickel over there.

Verse 2:

B F#
 So you better bring a bucket,
 B F#
 There is a hole in the pail,

B F#
 And if you don't get my letter,
 Ebm Abm C#
 Then you'll know that I'm in jail.
 B F#
 And what becomes of all the little boys,
 B F#
 Who never say their prayers?
 B Ab F# Ebm
 Well they're sleepin' like a baby,
 Abm C# F#
 On the Nickel over there.

Verse 3:

B F#
 And if you chew tobacco,
 B F#
 And wish upon a star,
 B F# Ebm
 Well you'll find out where the scarecrows sit,
 Abm C#
 Just like punchlines between the cars,
 B F#
 And I know a place where a royal flush,
 B F#
 Can never beat a pair,
 B Ab F# Ebm
 And even Thomas Jefferson,
 Abm C# F#
 Is on the Nickel over there.

Verse 4:

B F#
 So ring around the rosie,
 B F#
 You're sleepin' in the rain,
 B F#
 And you're always late for supper,
 Ebm Abm C#
 And man... you let me down, let me down again.
 B F#
 I thought I heard a mockingbird,
 B F#
 Roosevelt knows where...
 B Ab F# Ebm
 You can skip the light with Grady Tuck,
 Abm C# F#
 On the Nickel over there.

Verse 5:

B F#
 So what becomes of all the little boys,
 B F#
 Who run away from home?
 B F#
 Well the world just keeps gettin' bigger,
 Ebm Abm C#
 Once you get out on your own.
 B F#
 So here's to all the little boys,

B F#
The sandman takes you where...
B Ab F# Ebm
You're sleepin' with the pillow of man,
Abm C# F#
On the Nickel over there.

Verse 6:

B F#
So climb up through that button hole,
B F#
And fall right up the stairs,
B F# Ebm
I'll show you where the short dogs grow,
Abm C# F#
On the Nickel...over there.