

# The Cat Came Back

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*WARNING - violence*

*This song was written in 1893 and it became a popular children's song, In the original version the cat died when an organ grinder came to town (but the cat's ghost came back). Over the years it has picked up additional verses from various sources. You may omit the more violent verses for younger audiences - though they seem to delight in them.*

The chords for this song are a repeating chord progression: Am-G-F-Em

*Am*            *G*                            *F*                            *Em*  
Old Mister Johnson had some troubles of his own  
*Am*            *G*            *F*                            *Em*  
He had a yellow cat that wouldn't leave his home  
*Am*            *G*            *F*                            *Em*  
He tried and he tried to give the cat away  
*Am*            *G*            *F*            *Em*  
He gave him to a man goin' far away.

Chorus:

But the cat came back the very next day  
Yes, the cat came back - you know we thought he was a goner  
But the cat came back, he just couldn't stay a-way  
*optional line:*        Ooh, ah cha cha cha

2. He gave him to a man going up in a balloon  
Told him for to give him to the Man in the Moon  
Balloon came down fifty miles away  
What happened to the man, I dare not say.

3. He gave him to a boy with a dollar note  
Told him for to take it up the river in a boat  
Tie a stone around his neck (it must've weighed ten pounds)  
Now they're draggin' the river for the little boy that drowned.

4. He gave him to a man a-goin' out West  
Told him for to give him to the one he loved best  
Train turned a curve, then it jumped the rail  
No one lives to tell the gruesome tale.

5. Away across the ocean he did send the cat at last  
Vessel only out a day and taking water fast  
People all began to pray, the boat began to toss  
A great gust of wind came by and every soul was lost.

6. He took him to the meathouse when the butcher wasn't there  
He put him in the grinder and he watched him disappear  
He saw the blades whirr, he heard the cat shriek  
The villagers' meat tasted furry for a week.

7. He went around the corner, swore he'd kill the cat on sight  
He loaded up his shotgun with nails and dynamite  
He waited and he waited for the cat to come around  
*Ninety-seven* pieces - - of the man were all they found.

8. Well, the atom bomb fell, just the other day  
And the H-bomb fell in the very same way  
Russia went. England went. Then the U.S.A.  
The human race was demolished, without a chance to pray.

9. Now the cat got discouraged and thought the thing to do  
Was to take a vacation, leave them all feeling blue  
So he took him a tour of seven foreign cities  
Came home a month later - - with seven little kitties, yeah! The cat came back . . .