# The Ballad of Jesse James

Traditional 19th century (as recorded by Lew Dite 2009)

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [G]**

Jesse **[G]** James was a lad, that **[C]** killed many a **[G]** man

He **[G]** robbed the Glendale **[D7]** train **[D7]**

He **[G]** stole from the rich, and he **[C]** gave to the **[G]** poor

He'd a **[G]** hand and a **[D7]** heart and a **[G]** brain **[G]**

**CHORUS:**

Now poor **[C]** Jesse had a wife, to **[G]** mourn for his life

Three **[G]** children they were **[D7]** brave **[D7]**

But that **[G]** dirty little coward, that **[C]** shot Mister **[G]** Howard

Has **[G]** laid Jesse **[D7]** James in his **[G]** grave **[G]**

It was **[G]** on a Wednesday night, the **[C]** moon was shining **[G]** bright

They **[G]** robbed the Glendale **[D7]** train **[D7]**

And **[G]** folks from miles about, all **[C]** said without a **[G]** doubt

It was **[G]** robbed by **[D7]** Frank and Jesse **[G]** James **[G]**

**CHORUS:**

Now poor **[C]** Jesse had a wife, to **[G]** mourn for his life

Three **[G]** children they were **[D7]** brave **[D7]**

But that **[G]** dirty little coward, that **[C]** shot Mister **[G]** Howard

Has **[G]** laid Jesse **[D7]** James in his **[G]** grave **[G]**

It was **[G]** on a Saturday night, when **[C]** Jesse was at **[G]** home

**[G]** Talking to his family **[D7]** brave **[D7]**

A-**[G]**long came Robert Ford, like a **[C]** thief in the **[G]** night

And he **[G]** laid Jesse **[D7]** James in his **[G]** grave **[G]**

**CHORUS:**

Now poor **[C]** Jesse had a wife, to **[G]** mourn for his life

Three **[G]** children they were **[D7]** brave **[D7]**

But that **[G]** dirty little coward, that **[C]** shot Mister **[G]** Howard

Has **[G]** laid Jesse **[D7]** James in his **[G]** grave **[G]**

Now the **[G]** people held their breath, when they **[C]** heard of Jesse's **[G]** death

And they **[G]** wondered how Jesse came to **[D7]** die **[D7]**

It was **[G]** one of his gang, Lord, **[C]** little Robert **[G]** Ford

And he **[G]** shot Jesse **[D7]** James on the **[G]** sly **[G]**

**CHORUS:**

Now poor **[C]** Jesse had a wife, to **[G]** mourn for his life

Three **[G]** children they were **[D7]** brave **[D7]**

But that **[G]** dirty little coward, that **[C]** shot Mister **[G]** Howard

Has **[G]** laid Jesse **[D7]** James in his **[G]** grave **[G]↓ [Gsus2]↓ [G]↓**

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