

I WALK THE LINE

Key of A Major

I WALK THE LINE

Words and Music by Johnny Cash, Arranged by Ric Douglas

A E⁷ A
I keep a close watch on this heart of mine
A E⁷ A
I keep my eyes wide open all the time.
A D A
I keep the ends out for the tie that binds
A E⁷ A
Because you're mine, I walk the line

A E⁷ A
I find it very, very easy to be true
A E⁷ A
I find myself alone when each day is through
A D A
Yes, I'll admit I'm a fool for you
A E⁷ A
Because you're mine, I walk the line

I WALK THE LINE

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A

E⁷

A

As sure as night is dark and day is light

A

E7

A

I keep you on my mind both day and night

A

D

A

And happiness I've known proves that it's right

A

E7

A

Because you're mine, I walk the line

A

E7

A

You've got a way to keep me on your side

A

E7

A

You give me cause for love that I can't hide

A

D

A

For you I know I'd even try to turn the tide

A

E7

A

Because you're mine, I walk the line

Written by Johnny Cash and recorded in 1956. A 1970 movie of the same name, starring Gregory Peck, featured a soundtrack of Johnny Cash songs including the title song. The song is about Cash staying faithful to his wife at the time, Vivian, despite being on the road. Cash scored his first number one hit with the song. From the album With His Hot and Blue Guitar (1957) The song is very simple and like most Cash songs, the lyrics tell more of a story than the music conveys. It is based upon the "boom-chicka-boom" or "freight train" rhythm common in many of Cash's songs. The unique chord progression for the song was inspired by an accidental backwards playback on Cash's tape recorder while he was in the Air Force. Later, he wrote the lyrics in a backstage dressing room in Gladewater, Texas in 1955, after a discussion with fellow performer Carl Perkins encouraged him to adopt "I Walk the Line" as the song title.

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