

# The Baron

Johnny Cash

R: Wish I had a known you when you were a little younger  
'round me you might have learned a thing or two  
If I'd had known you longer you might be a little stronger  
Maybe you'd shoot straighter than you do, maybe you'd shoot  
straighter than you do.

1. As he walked into the poolroom you could tell he didn't fit  
In his hand made boots, custom suit, pearl handled shootin' stick  
Tonight there'd be a showdown then everyone would know  
Who shoots the meanest game around, The Baron or Billy Joe

Billy Joe looked edgy, about to lose his cool  
But the Baron's hands were steady as the two began to duel  
Yeah, he was like a General on a battlefield of slate  
And he would say to Billy Joe each time he sunk the eight, he'd  
say...

R: I wish I had of known...

2. Now Billy Joe was busted but he hadn't felt the sting  
And from the far end of the table he threw his Mother's wedding ring  
And he said 'You won my money but it ain't gonna do the trick  
I'll bet this ring on one more game against your fancy stick'

The Baron's eyes grew foggy as the ring rolled on the felt  
And he almost doubled over like he was hit below the belt  
Twenty years ago it was the ring his wife had worn  
And he didn't know before he left that a son would soon be born

3. It sounded just like thunder when the Baron shot the break  
But it grew quickly quiet as he lined up the eight  
Then a warm hand touched his shoulder and it chilled him to the bone  
When he turned and saw the woman who had loved him for so long.

The game was never finished, the eight ball never fell  
The Baron calmly picked it up and put it on the shelf  
Then he placed the ring in the hand that held him long ago  
And he tossed that fancy shootin' stick to his son Billy Joe  
And he said....

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