

# Cat and Mouse

Ry Cooder

Well I had an Uncle Charley, back in my hometown  
Said, Don't take no mice to be your friend  
'Cause they'll wait till you're asleep and steal your money and your food  
And rat you out when the police come around

Later on I started travellin', seeing something of this world  
And I learned to know a thing or two  
Just because you've been told a story back in your hometown  
Don't have to mean that story's always true

I remember it was winter and things were goin' bad  
It rained and it snowed all day long  
Nobody would feed me and I couldn't find no job  
In a factory or workin' on a farm  
I was laying in my suitcase and the snow was falling down  
I didn't know what I was gonna do  
When I heard a tiny voice out there in the dark  
Saying, Brother, can I come in there with you?

Well right here in my bag I got some real good cheese  
And a crust of bread or two  
If you let me come in and get out of the snow  
I'll share what I got with you

Don't take no mice to be your friend  
Was the rule Uncle Charley always told  
But the north wind kept howling and the snow kept blowin' down  
And I couldn't leave him out there in the cold

Well he said his name was Lefty and he'd been traveling round  
The secrets of this world to share with you  
Mouse traps are set right-handed, get your cheese out from the left  
We are many, Buddy, they are few

He said, They'll tell you lies to make you doubt your fellow man  
Like cats and mice just can't get along  
Well it suits the bosses, Buddy, and it serves them fine  
'Cause it keeps us working folks from bein' strong

There's a better world a coming, Buddy  
Which side are you on?  
Don't let the big men take it, Buddy  
Which side are you on?  
It's your country, too, Buddy  
Which side are you on?  
It's time to take a stand, Buddy  
Which side are you on?

Play!

Boy, it's a fact mice ain't no good --  
Old Charley always said they'll treat you bad  
But I'm here to tell you people, and I want it understood  
Lefty is the truest friend I'd ever had