Midnight Special (Traditional) (A)

Traditional song with numerous versions and over 240 covers.

The Midnight Special by Creedence Clearwater Revival (1969) (D @ 124)

Midnight Special by Huddie William "Lead Belly" Ledbetter (1934) (G @ 148), the first of his 3 recordings. – By Johnny Rivers (1965) (A @ 155) – By Paul Evans (1960)

Intro	(Single Strum)	D
IIIII	(Onigic Ottain)	

D - A
_ Well, you wake up in the mornin', _ you hear the work bell ring.
_ And they march you to the table _ to see the same old thing D - A
_ Ain't no food upon the table, _ and no pork up in the pan. E7 - A
But you better not complain, boy, _ you get in trouble with the man.
Chorus (2x last time)
D A _ Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. E7 A
_ Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. D A
_ Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. E7 A
Let the Midnight Special shine her ever-loving light on me
D A
D A Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 A
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know?
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D A Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand;
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 A By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D A
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 A By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D A Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand; E7 A - A7 She come to see the gov'nor, she wants to free her man. Chorus D A
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand; E7 A - A7 She come to see the gov'nor, she wants to free her man. Chorus D A If you're ever in Houston, well, you better do the right. E7 A
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand; E7 A - A7 She come to see the gov'nor, she wants to free her man. Chorus D A If you're ever in Houston, well, you better do the right.
Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? E7 By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore, D Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand; E7 A - A7 She come to see the gov'nor, she wants to free her man. Chorus D A If you're ever in Houston, well, you better do the right. E7 A

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Intro (Single Strum) D - D _ Well, you wake up in the mornin', _ you hear the work bell ring. _ And they march you to the table _ to see the same old thing. Ain't no food upon the table, and no pork up in the pan. - D But you better not complain, boy, _ you get in trouble with the man. Chorus (2x last time) Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me. Let the Midnight Special shine her ever-loving light on me Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know? By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore. Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand; D - D7 She come to see the gov'nor, she wants to free her man. **Chorus** If you're ever in Houston, well, you better do the right. You better not gamble, there, you better not fight, at all, Or the sheriff will grab you and the boys will bring you down.

The next thing you know, __ boy, Oh! You're prison bound. Chorus (2x)

According to folk music historian Alan Lomax, the Midnight Special was a real train: the Southern Pacific Golden Gate Limited, which got it's nickname because it departed Jackson, Mississippi at 12:05 a.m. on Sunday mornings, arriving at Parchman Prison (the Mississippi State Prison), 130 miles to the north, at dawn. Other trains identified as the Midnight Special include the Illinois Central and a Southern Pacific train from Houston shining its light into a cell in Sugar Land Prison. Carl Sandburg printed two versions in his American Song Bag (1927), pp. 26-7, 217