

Sweet Baby James James Taylor 1970

Written by Taylor for infant nephew James, thought up as he was driving to meet baby James for the first time. A lullaby/cowboy song. Taylor considers it his best song, and the rhyming pattern in it the most intricate of his career.

3 beats/chord unless noted. 1,2,3 1,2,3 Bb/// F/// C/// //

C/ F C Bb Am/// //  
There is a young cowboy, he lives on the range.  
Am/ Dm Bb F Am/// //  
His horse and his cattle are his only companions.  
Am/ Dm Bb F Am  
He works in the saddle and he sleeps in the canyon,  
Bb F C Gm/// /// C/// //  
Waiting for summer, his pastures to change;  
C/ Bb/// /// C F  
And as the moon rises he sits by his fire,  
Dm Bb F C  
Thinking 'bout women and glasses of beer.  
Bb/// /// C F//  
Closing his eyes as the dogies retire,  
F/ Dm Bb F/// //  
He sings out a song which is soft but it's clear:  
F/ Em7 A7 C7sus/// /// C/// //  
As if maybe someone could hear. . . .

**Chorus** F Bb C F  
Goodnight, you moonlight la—dies,  
Dm Bb F/// //  
Rockabye sweet baby James.  
Dm Bb F/// //  
Deep greens and blues are the colors I choose.  
F/ Em7 A7 C/// //  
Won't you let me go down in my dreams;  
C/ Bb C F/// //  
And rockabye sweet baby James.

F/ F C Bb Am/// //  
 Now the first of December, was covered with snow.  
 Am/ Dm Bb F Am/// //  
 And so was the turnpike from Stockbridge to Boston;  
 Am/ Dm Bb F Am//  
 Though the Berkshires seemed dreamlike on account of that frostin'  
 Am/ Bb F C Gm/// /// C/// //  
 With ten miles behind me and ten thousand more to go;  
 C/ Bb/// /// C F//  
 There's a song that they sing when they take to the highway,  
 F/ Bb/// /// F C//  
 A song that they sing when they take to the sea;  
 C/ Bb/// /// C F//  
 A song that they sing of their home in the sky.  
 F/ Dm Bb F/// //  
 Maybe you can believe it if it helps you to sleep:  
 F/ Em7 A7 C7sus/// /// C/// //  
 But singing works just fine for me.

**Chorus** C/ F Bb C F  
 So, goodnight, you moonlight la—dies.  
 Dm Bb F/// //  
 Rockabye sweet baby James.  
 Dm Bb F/// //  
 Deep greens and blues are the colors I choose,  
 F/ Em7 A7 C/// //  
 Won't you let me go down in my dreams;  
 C/ Bb C F/// /  
 And rockabye sweet baby James.

