THE MIDNIGHT SPECIAL (traditional major blues)

4/4 time, with one 2/4 measure at the end of the chorus

Note the dissonance of using all 7th chords and the mixing of the major and the minor modes in the E9+ chord. A less bluesy version uses E7 and starts the song singing a G# instead of a G.

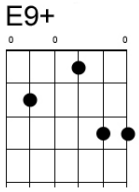
Verse 1:

E9+7(E7) **A7**
Well, you wake up in the mornin'
A7 **E7**
You hear the ding dong ding
E7 **B7**
And you look upon the table
A7 **E7**
You see the same old thing

E9+(E7) **A7**
Ain't no food upon the table
A7 **E7**
Nothin' in the fryin' pan
E7 **B7**
But if you say a thing about it
A7 **E7**
You'll get in trouble with the man

Chorus:

E9+(E7) **A7**
Let the midnight special
A7 **E7**
Shine its light on me
E7 **B7**
Let the midnight special
A7 **A7 ½** **E7** **E7**
Shine its ever-lovin' light on me



Verse 2:

Yonder come Miss Lucy
How in the world did you know
I can tell by her apron
And the dress she wore

Umbrella on her shoulder
Piece of paper in her hand
She's gonna see the sheriff
To try an free her man

(chorus)

Verse 3:

If you're ever down in Houston
You'd better walk on by
Oh, you'd better not gamble,
And you'd better not fight.

Because the sheriff will arrest you,
His boys will pull you down,
And then, before you know it,
You're penitentiary bound.

(chorus)