

# Odd Job Man

Harry Chapin

I give part time help  
I'm the odd job man  
I can't do what I want  
So I do what I can And I'll tell you now  
So that you will understand  
You get just what you pay for  
From the odd job man One day this dude drives in the station  
And I slide out to the pump  
And he says, " I need some odd jobs done  
Can you get off from this dump?" Well, I can always use some extra bread  
So I nod and take the job  
When he says, "Clean up before you come  
I do not hire slobs "Now you can see I'm not no fancy pants  
But everyone has pride  
And especially since this lovely lady's  
Sittin' by his side Still something keeps my trap shut  
And I nod again, " Alright "  
And he gooses his Mercedes  
And he squeals off in the night I give part time help  
I'm the odd job man  
I can't do what I want  
So I do what I can And I'll tell you now  
So that you will understand  
You get just what you pay for  
From the odd job man Well, I find his place next morning  
It's more a palace than a pad  
And it kind of makes my pick-up truck  
Start looking pretty bad But the same lady swings the door back  
And before one word is said  
She leads me to his trophy room  
Where he sits with his stuffed heads He's got this list of jobs for me to do  
While he's out of town  
And he says, "I'm too damn busy boy  
The way I move around" Well, I start to figure prices when he says  
"It's time you learned  
When you're dealing with a gentleman  
You get just what you earn" I give part time help  
I'm the odd job man  
I can't do what I want

So I do what I can And I'll tell you now  
So that you will understand  
You get just what you pay for  
From the odd job man I set to work that weekend  
And I'm fixin' up some stairs  
When I feel that someone's watching me  
And I see she's standing there And she says, "I like to watch you work  
You have such supple hands"  
She says, "Can I help you?"  
And I say, "Baby you can" Well, she looks me in the eyes, boys  
I admit I looked a little lower  
That's when she starts breathing faster  
And I start working slower You see when you have a helper  
With her attitude and grace  
You start puttin' lots of extra hours  
Workin' 'round the place I give part time help  
I'm the odd job man  
I can't do what I want  
So I do what I can And I'll tell you now  
So that you will understand  
You get just what you pay for  
From the odd job man Well, a month had too soon come and gone  
With my odd jobs all done  
When who should pull up to the pump  
But the long-lost prodigal son And he says, "Here's a hundred dollars, boy"  
Pulls the bill off from his wad  
And he starts to hand it over  
Like a gift come straight from God I say, "That's just a buck an hour sir"  
He says, "That's what I pay for jerks"  
Now I admit that almost blew my cool  
But I staggered back to work You see most times when it's said and done  
There's justice to this life  
'Cause what that man had done to me  
I'd done to his wife I give part time help  
I'm the odd job man  
I can't do what I want  
So I do what I can And I'll tell you now  
So that you will understand  
You get just what you pay for  
From the odd job man