



Eleuterio Sánchez Rodríguez, known as El Lute, was at one time Spain's "Most Wanted" criminal. The legendary Spanish outlaw escaped several times from prison after being sentenced at age 23 to 30 years for murder.

While in prison, „El Lute“ learnt to read, earned a law degree, and became a writer.

He was pardoned and released in 1981, at the age of 39.

When **Eleuterio Sánchez Rodríguez** was born in 1942 in Western Spain, his father was in prison. **Eleuterio never had any school education as a child.** He wasn't able to read or to write. As a young man, **he stole two hens** and was sentenced to six months in prison. Soon after his release, in 1965, he was arrested again, **accused of murder** and sentenced to death for the armed robbery of a jewellery store in Madrid, in which a security guard was killed. His sentence was changed to 30 years in prison. On the train to the prison, he managed to open his handcuffs using a wire he had hidden in his clothes. **He could jump off the train.** In prison he was allowed to weave carpets to earn a little money. He kept out a few pieces of thread every day with which he made a rope. It took him five years to finish it. During the time he was on the run, **he committed 111 robberies and 16 car thefts all over Spain.** Was El Lute a **Spanish Robin Hood**? A man who robbed the rich and helped the poor? Yes, since he was helping himself and he was poor. He became a legend owing to his daring escapes from jail. He was

listed by the police as **Spain's "most wanted" criminal.** He was a good-looking man. At the time when practically the entire police force of Spain, on foot, in cars, on motorcycles, in helicopters, were searching for him, **the women of Spain** were praying that El Lute wouldn't be caught. When back in prison he taught himself to read. He even studied foreign languages. **He went on to earn a law degree, wrote five books,** and continued his fight to clear his name. With **the end of the Franco regime,** Sánchez was pardoned. Finally he became a lawyer.

- escape: entweichen
- law degree: Titel in Rechtskunde
- to pardon: begnadigen
- education: Bildung
- to sentence: verurteilen
- release: Entlassung
- to accuse: anklagen
- armed: bewaffnet
- robbery: Raub
- guard: Wächter
- handcuffs: Handschellen
- wire: Draht
- hidden: versteckt
- weave: weben
- carpet: Teppich
- to earn: verdienen
- thread: Garn, Faden
- rope: Seil
- to commit: begehen
- theft: Diebstahl
- to owe: verdanken
- daring: gewagt
- escape: Flucht
- jail: Gefängnis
- entire: ganz
- catch - caught: fangen
- teach - taught: lehren
- foreign: fremd
- lawyer: Jurist

Boney M: El Lute

This is the story of El Lute

A man who to be *hunted* like a wild animal

chased

Because he was poor

But he to *accept his fate*

say yes to his destiny

And today his *honor* has been restored

reputation

He was only

And he was *sentenced* to die

judged

For something that else did

And blamed on El Lute

made responsible

Then they it to life
And so he could *escape*
..... they *chased* him
And searched for him day and night
.....
But the search was in vain for El Lute

flee
hunted

He had only seen the dark side of
The man they called El Lute
And he wanted a home just like you and
In a country where all would be free
So he taught himself
It didn't help El Lute
He was one who had *dared* to escape
They had to find El Lute

risked

Soon the of his name
Spread like wild fire all over the land
With a *price* on
People still gave him bread
And they
For they knew he was right
And his fight was

extended
reward

No one gave you a chance
In the Spain of
On the walls every place they had put up
..... of El Lute
And he *robbed* where he could just like Robin Hood
They finally caught him and
That the end
But they caught him *in vain*
Cause came for Spain
(The dead of dictator Franco and the end of fascism)
And El Lute

stole

without success
because

He had only seen the of life
The man they called El Lute
And he just like you and like me
In a country where all would be free
And then really came to his land
And also to El Lute
Now he walks in the light of
The man they called El Lute