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## El Lute



*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. Eleurterio 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 EI 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.

## **Boney M: El Lute**

| This is the story of El Lute                     |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| A man who to be <i>hunted</i> like a wild animal | chased                 |
| Because he was poor                              |                        |
| But he to accept his fate                        | say yes to his destiny |
| And today his <i>honor</i> has been restored     | reputation             |
|  |                        |
| He was only                                      |                        |
| And he was <i>sentenced</i> to die               | judged                 |
| For something that else did                      |                        |
| And blamed on El Lute                            | made responsible       |
| Then they it to life                             |                        |
| And so he could <i>escape</i>                    | flee                   |
| they <i>chased</i> him                           | hunted                 |
| And searched for him day and night               |                        |
|  |                        |

But the search was in vain for El Lute 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 ..... risked They had to find El Lute Soon the ..... of his name Spread like wild fire all over the land extended With a *price* on ..... reward People still gave him bread And they ..... For they knew he was right And his fight was ..... 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 stole They finally caught him and That ..... the end But they caught him in vain without success Cause .... came for Spain because (The dead of dictator Franco and the end of fascism) And El Lute 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

**Boney M.** is a vocal group created by German record producer Frank Farian. Originally based in Germany, the four original members of the group's official line-up were Jamaican-born singers Liz Mitchell and Marcia Barrett, Maizie Williams from Montserrat and Bobby Farrell from Aruba. The group was formed in 1976 and achieved popularity during the disco era of the late 1970s. Since the 1980s, various line-ups of the band have performed with different personnel.