

# The River

Words & Music by Bruce Springsteen.  
 © Copyright 1979, 1981 Bruce Springsteen. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured.

## CHORDS USED IN THIS SONG:



Moderate Folk Style

(Harmonica part adapted for guitar)

I

*mf*

Em *i m i r m i* G *m*

(fingerpicking)

D *i r m* C G

*mf*

Am *i m i r i m i* G *i r m i m r m* C

I

Em G D

come from down in the val - ley where, mis - ter, when you're  
I got Mar - y preg - nant and, man, that was all she

C(9) Em G

young, they bring you up to do  
wrote. And for my nine - tenth birthday I got a union

C G C

like your dad - dy done. — Me and Mar - y, we met in high —  
card and a wed - din' coat. — We went down to the court -

G D/F# Em

— school when she was just sev - en teen. We'd  
— house, and the judge put it all to rest. No

Am G

drive out of this val - ley down to where the fields were  
wedding day smiles, no walk down the aisle, no flowers, no wed - din'

1. 2. 4. To next strain 3. Chorus: Em etc.

green. That night We'd go care but I re - down to the  
dress. That night we went care but I re - down to the

C D G

riv er, — { and in - to the riv - er we'd dive. } Oh, —  
 { though I know the riv - er is dry, }  
 { my ba - by and I }

Em C D

down to the riv - er — { we'd — ride. }  
 { to — night. }  
 { we'd — ride. }

1. C(9) 2. D.S. 5/4 C(9) 3. C(9) Repeat and fade

Then

*Verse 3:*

I got a job working construction  
 For the Johstown Company,  
 But lately there ain't been much work  
 On account of the economy.  
 Now all of them things that seemed so important  
 Well, mister, they vanished right into the air.  
 Now I just act like I don't remember.  
 Mary acts like she don't care.

*Verse 4:*

But I remember us ridin' in my brother's car,  
 Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir.  
 At night on them banks I'd lie awake and put her close  
 Just to feel each breath she'd take.  
 Now those mem'ries come back to haunt me.  
 They haunt me like a curse.  
 Is a dream a lie if it don't come true?  
 Or is it something worse that sends me...

( To Chorus: )