

Sniper

Harry Chapin

CAPO 3

Open

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

She said not now, she said not now, she said not now, she said not now

Em - Em - Em - Em

A - Asus4 - A - Asus2 / A - Asus4 - A - Asus2

Verse

A Em G F
It is an early Monday morning

A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
The sun is becoming bright on the land

A Em G F
No one is watching as he comes a walking

C G D A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
Two bulky suitcases hang from his hands

A Em G F
He heads towards the tower that stands in the campus

A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
He goes through the door; he starts up the stairs

A Em G F
The sound of his footsteps, the sound of his breathing

C G D A
The sound of the silence but no one was there... there... there... there...

Bridge 1

D - Am - D - Am (Note: 4/4 time here)

(Note: Guitar is just playing D (or D7) with the baseline alternating, but if only playing on alone on an acoustic guitar, playing the D - Am sounds a little nicer.)

D Am
I didn't really know him

D Am
He was kind of strange

D Am
Always sort of sat there

D Am
He never seemed to change

C Em A - Asus4 - A - Asus2 (Note: Back to 3/4 time here)
No no - No no - No no no

Verse

A Em G F
He reached the catwalk, He put down his burden

A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
The four-sided clock began to chime

A Em G F
Seven AM, the day is beginning

C G D A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
So much to do and so little time

A Em G F
He looks at the city where no one had known him

A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
He looks at the sky where no one looks down

A Em G F
He looks at his life and what it has shown him

C G D A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
He looks for his shadow it cannot be found

Bridge 2

D - Am - D - Am (Note: 4/4 time here)

(Note: Guitar is just playing D (or D7) with the baseline alternating, but if only playing on alone on an acoustic guitar, playing the D - Am sounds a little nicer.)

D Am
He was such a moody child

D Am
very hard to touch

D Am
Even as a baby

D Am
he never smiled too much

C/G F#m
No no. No no.

Bridge 3

F#m
 You bug me, she said
 F#m
 Your ugly, she said
 F#m
 Please hug me, I said
 G
 But she just sat there
 Bm
 With the same flat stare
 G Em
 That she saves for me alone
 F#m (Note: Back to 3/4 time here)
 When I'm home
 G
 When I'm home
 A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
 Take me home

Verse

A Em G F
 He laid out the rifles, he loaded the shotgun
 A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
 He stacked up the cartridges along the wall
 A Em G F
 He knew he would need them for his conversation
 C G D A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
 If it went as he planned, then he might use them all
 A Em G F
 He said Listen you people I've got a question
 A Em G C - Cmaj7 - C6 - Cmaj7
 You won't pay attention, but I'll ask anyhow
 A Em G F
 I found a way that will get me an answer
 C G D
 Been waiting to ask you 'till now
 A - Asus4 - A - Asus2
 Right now!

Bridge 4**A**

Am I?

A Em Em7 A

I am a lover whose never been kissed

A

Am I?

A Em Em7 A

I am a fighter whose not made a fist

A

Am I?

A Em Em7 A G/B

If I'm alive then there's so much I've missed

C G A

How do I know I exist?

A

Are you listening to me?

A

Are you listening to me?

A

Am I?

Verse**A Em G F9**

The first words he spoke took the town by surprise

A Em G F9

One got Mrs. Gibbons above her right eye

A Em G F9

It blew her through the window wedged her against the door

C G D A - Asus4 - A - Asus2

Reality poured from her face, staining the floor

Bridge 5

D - Am - D - Am (Note: 4/4 time here)

*(Note: Guitar is just playing D (or D7) with the baseline alternating, but if only playing on alone on an acoustic guitar, playing the D - Am sounds a little nicer.)*D Am
He was kind of creepyD Am
Sort of a dunceD Am
I met him at the corner barD Am
But I only dated the poor boy onceC Em A
That's all. Just once, that was all**Verse** (stop time)A
Bill Whedon was questioned as stepped from his carA A
Tom Scott ran across the street but he never got that farA A A A A A A A
The police were there in minutes, they set up barricadesC C C C C G G G G G (Resume regular time)
He spoke right on over them in a half-mile circleD C Em Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C
In a dumb struck city his pointed questions were sprayed

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

He knocked over Danny Tyson as he ran towards the noise

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

Just about then the answers started coming. Sweet, sweet joy (she said not now, she said not now!)

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

Thudding in the clock face, whining off the walls

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

Reaching up to where he sat there, answering calls (not now, she said not now!)

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

Thirty-seven people got his message so far

Am/G - Am/C - Am/G - Am/C ...

Yes, he was reaching them right were they are (not now, she said not now, she said not now!) A A

(Stop time)

They set up an assault team. They asked for volunteers

They had to go and get him, that much was clear

And the word spread about him on the radios and TV's

C C C C C G G D (optional)
In appropriately sober tones they asked "Who can it be?"

Bridge 6

D - Am - D - Am (Note: 4/4 time here)

(Note: Guitar is just playing D (or D7) with the baseline alternating, but if only playing on alone on an acoustic guitar, playing the D - Am sounds a little nicer.)

D Am
He was a very dull boy

D Am
very taciturn

D Am
Not much of a joiner

D Am
he did not want to learn

F#m F#m
No no. No no.

Verse (Driving 4/4 time)

F#m F#m

They're coming to get me, they don't want to let me

F#m G
Stay in the bright light too long

It's getting on noon now, it's goin' to be soon now

F#m G (Stay in 4/4 time, but calmer)
But oh, what a wonderful song!

Bridge 7

^G
 Mama, won't you nurse me?
^{Em} ^C ^{A7}
 Rain me down the sweet milk of your kindness.
^G
 Mama, it's getting worse for me.
^{Em} ^C ^{A7}
 Won't you please make me warm and mindless?
^G
 Mama, yes you have cursed me
^{Em} ^C ^{A7}
 I never will forgive you for your blindness
^{Bm}
 I HATE YOU!

Verse (Stop Time)

^A
 The wires are all humming for me
^A
 And I can hear them coming for me
^A ^A ^A ^A
 Soon they'll be here, but there's nothing to fear
^A ^A ^A ^A ^A ^A ^A ^A
 Not anymore though they've blasted the door

(Resume normal time) ^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} - ^{Am/G} - ^{AmC}

^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} - ^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} ...
 As the copter dropped the gas he shouted, "Who cares?"
^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} - ^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} ...
 They could hear him laughing as they started up the stairs (not now, she said not now!)
^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} - ^{Am/G} - ^{Am/C} ...
 As they stormed out on the catwalk, blinking at the sun
^{Em} ^G ^{Em} ^{Em - Em/F# - Em/G - Em/Ab}
 With their final fusillade his answer had come.

Outro

A

Am I? (Am I?)

A

Em

There is no way that you can hide me.

A

Am I? (Am I?)

A

Em

Though you have put your fire inside me.

A

Am I? (Am I?)

A

Em

A

C#m

You've given me my answer can't you see?

Bm

Bm/A

I was!

G

G/F#

I am!

Em

C

and now I Will Be

A

Asus4

I WILL BE!!!

A

Asus2

I WILL BE!!!

A

Asus4

I WILL BE!!!

A

Asus2

I WILL BE!!!

A

Asus4 - A - Asus2

I WILL BE!!!

A - Asus4 - A - Asus2

A