

The River

Abbey Lincoln

Am **C** **G** **F**
I come from down in the valley, where mister when you re young

Am **C** **F** **C**
They bring you up to do like your daddy done

F **C** **G** **Am**
Me and Mary we met in high school, when she was just seventeen

Dm **C** **F**
We d ride out of that valley down to where the fields were green

Am **F** **G** **C**
We d go down to the river, And into the river we d dive

Am **F** **G** **A**
Oh down to the river we d ride

Am **C** **G** **F**
Then I got Mary pregnant, And man that was all she wrote

Am **C** **F** **C**
And for my nineteenth birthday I got a union card and a wedding coat

F **C** **G** **Am**
We went down to the courthouse, And the judge put it all to rest

Dm **C** **F**
No wedding day smiles no walk down in the aisle, No flowers no wedding dress

Am **F** **G** **C**
That night we went down to the river, And into the river we d dive

Am **F** **G** **F**
On down to the river we did ride

Am **C** **G** **F**
I got a job working construction for the Johnstown Company

Am **C** **F** **C**
But lately there ain t been much work on account of the economy

F
Now all them things that seemed so important

C **G** **Am**
Well mister they vanished right into the air

Dm **C** **F**
Now I just act like I don t remember, Mary acts like she don t care

Am **C**
But I remember us riding in my brother s car

G **F**
Her body tan and wet down at the reservoir

Am **C**
At night on them banks I d lie awake

F **C**
And pull her close just to feel each other breath she d take

F **C** **Am**
Now those memories come back to haunt me, They haunt me like a curse

Dm **C**
Is a dream a lie if it don t come true, Or is it something worse that sends me

Am **F** **G** **C**
 Down to the river though I know the river is dry
 Am **F** **G**
 That sends me down to the river tonight
Am **F** **G** **C** **Am** **F** **G**
 Down to the river, My baby and I, Oh down the river we d ride
 Am **F**
 oh oh oh oh oh oh The exact amount of oohing depends on version