The River
Abbey Lincoln


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     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
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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
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