

The Short Answer

Billy Bragg

Billy Bragg - The Short Answer

From the album: Workers Playtime

Posted by Matt Quinn on ultimateGuitar.com - all corrections & improvements welcome

Capo on the second fret on the album version.

- C** x32010
- G/B** x20010
- Am** x02210
- G** 320003
- Em** 022000
- F** 113211
- F/E** 013211
- Dm** xx0231

Bass runs in the verse:

Run 1: Leading into the first C chord of each of the first two lines, run up from the G on the bottom string.

Run 2: Leading into the first F chord of the third line, run up from the C on fifth string.

	Run 1	Run 2
E-	-3-----	-----
A-	---0-2-0-	-3-----
D-	-----	---0-2-0-
G-	-----	-----
B-	-----	-----
E-	-----	-----

In the long F bit (3rd and 4th line of the verse), you can play around with alternatively removing and replacing your finger on the 6th string - that is, alternating between F and F/E chords.

He certainly seems to do that live; can t really tell on the album version.

C **G/B** **Am** **G** **C** **G** **C**
 Be-tween Marx and marzi-pan in the dictiona-ry there was Mary
C **G/B** **Am** **G** **C** **G** **C**
 Be-tween the deep blue sea and the devil, that was me
F **G** **F**
 If ever anyone could help me with my obsession with

G

C G/B Am G C G C

The young Susannah York it was Ma-a-ry

In my pink pyjamas, she asked me for something, I gave her the short answer
She read our stars out loud, and I knew then that we should have gone sailing
But we stayed home instead, fighting on the waterbed
Like the honeymoon couple on drugs - me and Mary

What happened in the past, remained a mystery of natural history
She should have been the last, but she was just the latest
If she wanted to be a farmer s wife, I would endure that muddy life
I would dig for victory

Am

And the sound of happy couples

Em

Coupling happily in the dark

F

C

While you and I sat down to tea

F

C

I remember you said to me

Am

That no amount of poetry

Em

Would mend this broken heart

Dm

But you can put the Hoover round

F

G

If you want to make a st-art

chord riff, basically: [F-F G C-C C] x 4 {listen to the record for the rhythm & variations}

(verses again)

All my friends from school introduce me to their spouses
While I m left standing here with my hands down the front of my trousers
I just don t know what s to be done; I wonder sometimes how did Dad meet Mum?
And how did they conceive of me? Tell me Mary

The boys who came to the shop always made her laugh much more than I did
When I told her this must stop she didn t bat an eyelid
She said you know honey it s such a shame you ll never be any good at this game
You bruise too easily - so said Mary

Her two brothers took me out of circulation for the duration
So we went our separate ways but does she still love me? She still has my door
key
Like a bully boy in a Benetton shop, you re never happy with what you ve got
Till what you ve got has gone - sorry Mary*

Outro:

Lyrics sung over the same chord riff as above: [F-F G C-C C].

*Riff starts on second syllable of Mary in last verse and is played a couple

of times before outro lyrics start.

F - F G C-C C

For the tall girl

F - F G C-C C

For the barefoot girl

F - F G C - C C

For the girl with the soap in her mouth and the stars in her hair

F - F G C-C C

For the brown-eyed girl

[repeat chord riff to fade]