

Birmingham Shadows
Bruce Cockburn

Bruce Cockburn - Birmingham Shadows

This is my first attempt at this whole thing and I don't have it correct, but my hope is that someone will take this and fix it because I have been dying to know

the correct way to play this fantastic song! And if someone feels so inclined, please tab out the lead part, too! I am 99% the verse is right, but the chorus chords are just an educated guess based on some jazz theory - wish I had stuck with music class...

The lyrics I got off of <http://cockburnproject.net/songs&music/bs.html>.

The song is the work and creation of Bruce Cockburn on the album Charity of Night

- easily his best song!

Happy, moody playing!

Capo second fret

Verse: **Em7** (he has some interesting walk-up that I haven't figured out... maybe you could? - listen for rhythm)

Birmingham

Just behind the mountain

Sparse streetlamps glow in hot half-moon haze

Shadows shorten into little black pools that elongate behind

We walk, talk some, laugh some

Worked hard, now wired, and hanging out

I'm curious what you might be all about

Curious, too, what that dark-shape in the hard shining cruiser might do

And you have no idea what you're getting

out of of your own curiosity and tense energy

Tattoo on chest like the key to the puzzle of your pumping heart

Wearing your shadows all over your sleeve

Wearing the role of young upstart

Chorus: **Gmaj** **A7sus4/E** **Cadd9** **A7sus4/E** (These are close but not right)

Birmingham shadows fall

You show a little, I let something show too

It's now or not at all

Out on the road, it's always instant get-to-know-you

Verse 2: **Em7**

Under velvet trees, towering like the sides of a well
Before the empty two office blocks
Which we re admonished not to enter
Policeman studies us, finds us confusing
More amusing than threat
Moves on, bemused
Pavement spirals down ahead like the fossil of a giant shell
Along the kingdom s midnight marches
I wear my shadows where they re harder to see
But they follow me everywhere
I guess that should tell me that I m travelling toward light
I guess something you sang made me remember that
I guess I m saying thanks for that
[Chorus]

[Instrumental Break]

Verse 3: **Em7**

Got a head full of horrors and a heart full of night
At home in the darkness, but hungry for dawn
I only remember scenes, never the stories I live
The good things about that is, it s easy to forgive
Can t make assumptions about any of this
We re nomads following our own songlines
Who knows what could strike before we meet again?
But if I fall down and die
Without saying goodbye
I give you this: you ll have lost a friend

[Chorus]

Verse (1st 4 lines only) slowed down:

Birmingham
Just behind the mountain
Sparse streelamps glow in hot half-moon haze
Shadows shorten into little black pools that elongate behind...

the fade out...