

Common Knowledge

Conor Oberst

This is a new song that s only been performed live. I made this tab by watching Conor play it live in St. Paul MN.

After the last G in each verse he runs up the scale like this
(from low E string to the A string)

G A B C D E F G

On the D minor in the intro, there s a pull off from the G on the high E string to a normal d minor. Watch a video of him playing it if you don t understand what that means.

[Intro]

C Dm (+ pull off) (x2)

[Verse 1]

C **C/B**
He s my friend but he s no friend to me
C **C/B**
Ask him why, he ll tell you casually
F
Washed up, bitter, broken, busted
G
Back stabbed everyone he trusted
C **C/B** **F**
Says he sees what no one else can see
G
And if I had half his guts I d want it
F
To chase that fatalistic comet
C **C/B** **F**
Die young in the dark; that s poetry
Dm **G** (run up the scale)
But it was not to be, no it was not for me

[Verse 2]

(same as verse 1)

He s always sad but I ve never seen him cry
When he comes to, sure he ll apologize
Find his car, assess the damage

Still drunk but he likes the challenge
Hold on to his mind just like a kite
But a good strong win can keep you honest
Fill you with some common knowledge
Things when we were young we never tried
Just figured we had time with such a long life

[Verse 3]

(same as verse 1)

Money clips, alligator shoes
One more dance, he s in that champagne room
She moves like a chocolate fountain
Pouring, spilling all around him
Makes him wonder what else she can do
How bittersweet is love s illusion
Feelings that cannot be proven
Trust me, you ll see, my aim is true
I ve done this all for you, I ve suffered long for you

[Verse 4]

(same as verse 1)

So many times he s tried to play it straight
Worked and worked until his body ached
But a brand new life can lose its luster
The troubled tend to find each other
Call it luck or you can call it fate
But either way it s how it happens
Not the way that you imagined
Or go out with a bang like Hemingway
Some will say you re brave
Some will say you ain t