

A Better Place To Be
Harry Chapin

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From twartman@phoenix.isn.net Thu May 8 14:11:02 1997
Date: Thu, 24 Apr 1997 14:32:35 -0300
From: Tim Wartman
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Subject: Chords: A better place to be by Harry Chapin

This is my favorite Harry Chapin tune. I thought others might like it too.
It s pretty simple to play.

D **Dmaj7** **D7** **G**

It was an early morning barrom and the place just opened up

EM **A7**

and the little man came in so fast and he started at his cup

D **DMAJ7** **D7** **G**

and the broad who served the whiskey was a big old friendly girl

EM **A7**

who tried to fight her empty nights by smiling at the world

G **A** **F#M** **B7**

and she said hey bub it s been a while since you ve been around

EM **A** **G** **D**

where the hell have you been hiding and why you look so down

G **A** **G** **A** **D**

Well the little man just sat there like he d never heard a sound

CM **G** **Bb** **F**

the waitress she gave out with a cough and acting not the least put off

EM **A**

she spoke once again

D **G** **EM**

She said I don t want to bother you consider it s understood

A **EM** **A** **EM** **D**
I know I m not no beauty queen but I sure can listen good.

G **A** **EM** **D**
And the little man took his drink in his hand and he raise it to his lips

G **D** **EM** **A** **D**
He took a couple of sips and he told the waitress his story.

D **AM** **C** **G** **D**
I am the midnight watchman down at Miller s tool and dime

G **F#M** **BM** **Cmaj7**
I watch the metal rusting, I watch the time go by

A **G** **F#M** **B7**
a week ago at the diner I stopped to get a bite

EM **A** **G** **EM** **D**
and this here lovely lady she sat two seats from my right

G **G** **EM A,G,G** **D**
And lord, lord, lord she was alright.

She was so damn beautiful that she could warm a winter s frost
but she look long past lonely and I, I was lost
I m not much of a mover or a pick em up easy guy
but I decided to glide on over and give it one good try
and lord lord lord she was worth a try

Tongue tied like a schoolboy, I stammerred out some words
it did not seem to matter much, cause I don t think she heard
She just looked clear on through me, to a place back in my head
It shamed me into silence as quietly she said

(chorus)
If you want me to come with you than that s alright with me
cause I know I m going nowhere and anywhere s a better place to be

Well I drove her to my boarding house and I took her up to my room
and I went to turn on the only light to brighten up the gloom

DM **GM**
but she said please leave the light on, I don t mind the dark

F **A**
and as her clothes all tumbled round her, I could hear my heart.

The moonlight shone upon her as she lay back in my bed
it was the kind of thing I only had imagined in my head
I just could not believe it , to think that she was real
and as I tried to tell her, she said, shhh I know just how you feel

and lord, lord, lord, she was alright.

Well the morning came so swiftly as I held her in my arms
She slept like a baby snug and safe from harm
I did not want to share her or dare to break the mood
so before she woke I went out to buy us both some food
I came back with my paper bag
to find that she was gone
she d left a six word letter saying
it s time that I moved on.

You know the waitress she took her bar rag and she wiped it across her eyes
and as she spoke her voice came out as something like a sigh
She said I wish that I was beautiful or that you were halfway blind
I wish I weren t so goddamned fat, I wish that you were mine
and I wish that you d come with me when I leave for home
for we both know all about emptiness and living all alone.

And the little man looked at the empty glass in his hand
and he smile a crooked grin
He said, I, I guess I m outta gin
and I know we both have been so lonely.

(chorus)