

**Harlem River Blues**  
**Justin Townes Earle**

Harlem River Blues by Justin Townes Earle

Tabbed by Wade Lewis (contact [wmlewis1@gmail.com](mailto:wmlewis1@gmail.com)) - corrections/additions welcome

JTE plays with capo on 3rd fret (see Youtube and Letterman), but I play it on the 1st fret, or even without

INTRO: **G / G/C / G / G/C / G / G/C / G**

CHORUS

**G** **C**  
Lord, I m goin uptown to the Harlem River to drown  
**G** **D** **G**  
Dirty water s gonna cover me over and I m not gonna make a sound

VERSE 1

**G** **C**  
I m on a roll, mama, I gotta go, I gotta get there while I still can  
**G** **D**  
Troubled days are behind me now and I know they re gonna let me in [melody rises]

**G** **C**  
So when you see me walkin up the empty yard, just a-singin and a-clappin my hands  
**G** **D** **G**  
**G/C G G/C G**  
Tell my mama I love her, tell my father I tried, give my money to my baby to spend

CHORUS

cause Lord, I m goin uptown to the Harlem River to drown  
Dirty water s gonna cover me over and I m not gonna make a sound

VERSE 2

**G** **C**  
Good times come and they go, even a good man ll break  
**G** **D**  
He ll let his troubles bury him whole even though he knows what s at stake [melody rises]  
**G** **C**  
So I m taking no chances, carrying over while I m still good in His grace  
**G** **D** **G G/**  
**C G G/C G**  
I m no fool, mama, I know the difference between tempting and choosing my fate

CHORUS

cause Lord, I m goin uptown to the Harlem River to drown  
Dirty water s gonna cover me over and I m not gonna make a sound

Lord, I m goin uptown to the Harlem River to drown  
Dirty water gonna cover me over and I m not gonna make a sound

[No chords, or just lightly only strummed on last chorus]  
Lord, I m goin uptown to the Harlem River to drown  
Dirty water gonna cover me over and I m not gonna make a sound