

World Before Columbus
Suzanne Vega

World Before Colombus
track #8 on nine objects of desire
transcribed by Drew Boles (BolesGJD@*)

World Before Colombus is a rather simple song. The chord progression is easy, and the fingerpicking is simple as well. I have included the lyrics with the basic chords, and then the tablature below that.

Chords:

Em=022000 Dsus2/E=0x0230 Cmaj7=x32000 G=320033
Amsus=x02210 D/F#=2x0230 F=133211 Bm=x24400
C=x32010

Lyrics and chords:

Dsus2/E

[intro]

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

If your love were taken from me

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

Every color would be black and white.

G D/F# Em Amsus

It would be as flat as the world before Colombus.

G D/F# Em F Dsus2/E

That s the day that I lose half my sight.

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

If your life were taken from me

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

All the trees would freeze in this cold ground.

G D/F# Em Amsus

It would be as cold as the world before Colombus.

G D/F# Em F

Sail to the edge and I ll be there, looking

Dsus2/E

Down.

G D/F# Em C G

Those men who lust for land and for riches strange and new,

 D/F# Em C G

All those trinkets of desire, but they never will have you.

 D/F# Em C G

And they ll never know the gold or the copper in your hair,

 D/F# F Dsus2/E

How could they weigh the worth of you so rare.

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

If your love were taken from me
 Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7
 Every light that s bright would soon grow dim.

G D/F# Em Amsus
 It would be as dark as the world before Columbus.

G D/F# Em F
 Down the waterfall and I d swim over the

Dsus2/E

Brim.

G D/F# Em C G
 Those men who lust for land and for riches strange and new,

D/F# Em C G
 All those trinkets of desire, oh they never will have you.

D/F# Em C G
 And they ll never know the gold or the copper in your hair,

D/F# F Dsus2/E

How could they weigh the worth of you so rare.

Dsus2/E

[outro]

TAB notation:

P: pull off

h: hammer on

(intro riff)

Dsus2/E

```

E-----0- |-----B-----3
-----3-----3- |-----3-----3-----3-G-----2-----4-----0-----2h4----- |
-----2-----4-----0-----D----- |
-----A----- |
-----E-0----- | -0
-----
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

```

-----0- |-----0- |-----3--- |-----3
-----3-----3-----3--- |-----3-----3--2h4----- |-----2-----4-----0-----
2h4----- |-----2----- |----- |
----- |----- |
----- | -0----- | -0-----
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

```

-----0- ||
-----3-----3--- ||
-4---0-----2h4----- ||
----- ||
----- ||
----- ||
. + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(verse)

Em Cmaj7 Bm Cmaj7

```

-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|-----4-----4-----|
2-----3-----|-----2-----3-----0-----|
-----|-----|-----|
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .
  If your love were taken...
  If your life were taken...

```

Em Cmaj7 Bm

```

-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
0-----|-----0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|-----4-----4-----|
-----|-----3-----|-----2-----|-----0-----|
-----|-----|-----|
. ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

Cmaj7 G D/F# Em

```

-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----3-----3-----|-----2-----2-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
|-----2-3-----0-----|-----|-----|-----|
-----|-----3-----2-----|-----0-----|
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

Amsus G D/F#

```

-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----|-----3-----3-----|-----0-----2-----|-----0-----0-----|
0-----|-----2-----0-----2-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
-----0-----|-----|-----|
-----|-----3-----2-----|
-----|
. + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(these two measures go with the first verse)

Em F

```

---|-----|-----|
---|-----0-----|-----|
---|-----0-----|-----|
-0-|-----2-----0-----|-----|
---|-----3-----|-----3-----|
---|-0-----1-----|-----1-----|
. + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(these two measures go with the second and third verses; they replace the two measures above)

Em F

```

-----|-----|

```

```

-----0(3)-----1-----|-----1-----||
-----0-----2-----|-----2-----||
-----2-----0-----3-----3-----|-----3-----3-----||
-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
-0-----1-----|-----1-----||
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(pre-chorus riff)

```

Dsus2/E
-----0-----|-----3-----
3-----3---|-----3-----3-----3-----2-----4---0-----2h4-----|
-----2-----4---0-----|
-----|
-----0-----|-0
-----
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .
...down.
...brim.

```

(chorus riff)

```

          G                D/F#                Em
-----|-----3-3-3-3-3-----0-0-0-0-0-|-----0-0-0-0-----|-----3-3-
3-3-3-----3-3-3-3-3-|-----0-0-0-0-----|-----0-0-0-0-0-0-----2-2-2-2-
-|-----0-0-0-0-----|-----0-0-0-0-----0-0-0-0-0-|-----2-2-2-2
-----|-----|-----|-----0---2---|-3
-----2-----|-0-----
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

C

```

-0-----0-0-0-0-0-||
-0-----1-1-1-1-1-||
-0-----0-0-0-0-0-||
-2-----2-2-2-2-2-||
---3-----||
-----||
. + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(repeat chorus riff 3 times; the last time, play only the first measure, then the chorus outro)

(chorus outro)

```

F
-----1-1-1-1-1-----1-1-1-1-1-|-----1-1-1-1-1-||
-----1-1-1-1-1-----1-1-1-1-1-|-----1-1-1-1-1-||
-----2-2-2-2-2-----2-2-2-2-2-|-----2-2-2-2-2-||
-----3-3-3-3-3-----3-3-3-3-3-|-----3-3-3-3-3-||
-----|-----|-----|-----|
-1-----1-----|-----1-----||
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ .

```

(play intro riff 2 times; replace the last measure with the

outro riff)

(outro riff)

Dsus2/E

```
-----0-----||
----3-----3-----3---3-----||
-----2-----4--0---4-----||
-----2-----2-----||
-----0-----0-----||
-0-----0-----||
+ . ^ . + . ^ . + . ^ . +
```

That s it everybody. Have fun.

transcribed by: Drew Boles (BolesGJD@*)