

# The River

Bruce Springsteen

**INTRO: 1 2 3 4 /**

**[Em]/[G]/[D]/[C]/  
[Am]/[G]/[C]/[C]**

I **[Em]** come from down in the **[G]** valley  
Where **[D]** mister, when you're **[C]** young  
They **[Em]** bring you up to **[G]** do  
**[C]** Like your daddy **[G]** done  
Me and **[C]** Mary we met in high school  
When **[G]** she was just **[D]** seven-**[Em]**teen  
We'd **[Am]** drive out of this valley,  
Down to **[G]** where the fields were **[C]**↓ green

We'd go **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river  
And **[D]** into the river we'd **[G]** dive  
Oh **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river we'd **[D]** ride **[C]**  
Then **[Em]** I got Mary **[G]** pregnant  
And **[D]** man, that was all she **[C]** wrote  
And **[Em]** for my 19th **[G]** birthday  
I got a union **[C]** card and a wedding **[G]** coat  
We **[C]** went down to the courthouse  
And the **[G]** judge put it **[D]** all to **[Em]** rest  
No **[Am]** wedding day smiles, no walk down the aisle  
No **[G]** flowers, no wedding **[C]** dress

That night we went **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river  
And **[D]** into the river we'd **[G]** dive  
Oh oh **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river we did **[D]** ride **[C]**

I **[Em]** got a job working con-**[G]**struction  
 For the **[D]** Johnstown Company **[C]**  
 But **[Em]** lately there ain't been **[G]** much work  
 On ac-**[C]**count of the econo-**[G]**my  
 Now **[C]** all them things that seemed so important  
 Well mister **[G]** they vanished **[D]** right into the **[Em]** air  
 Now I just **[Am]** act like I don't remember  
 Mary **[G]** acts like she don't **[C]** care

But I re-**[Em]**member us riding in my **[G]** brother's car  
 Her body **[D]** tan and wet, down at the **[C]** reservoir  
 At **[Em]** night on them banks I'd **[G]** lie awake  
 And pull her **[C]** close just to feel each **[G]** breath she'd take  
 Now those **[C]** memories come back to haunt me  
 They **[G]** haunt me **[D]** like a **[Em]** curse  
 Is a **[Am]** dream a lie if it don't come true  
 Or **[G]** is it something **[C]** worse

That sends me **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river  
 Though I **[D]** know the river is **[G]** dry  
 That sends me **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river to-**[D]**night **[C]**

**[Em]** Down to the **[C]** river my **[D]** baby and **[G]** I  
 Oh oh **[Em]** down to the **[C]** river we **[D]** ride **[C]**  
**[Em]** Ooh.../**[C]**/**[D]**/**[G]**/**[Em]**/**[C]**/**[D]**↓

