

A Nickel Short of a Dime

Background: A song about redemption. About feeling past your prime with the clock ticking and having doubts about your worth or what you've achieved in life. But to go out and find out that there are many others in the same boat, and you aren't as bad off as you may think. Most of all, there's still time left. Always.

Written: 2023

Arrangements - Main arrangement is (3) in G relative to capo on 2

Key	A	G	G	D
Capo	None	None	2	2
Style	Rockabilly	Dylan	Folk/Rock	Dylan
Time	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4
Tempo	150	135	135	135
Tuning	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Verse	AAAA DDAA EEAA EEAA	G Em C G G Em C D	G Em C G G Em C D	D Bm G D D Bm G A
Chorus	DDAA DDAA EDAA	CG CG DCG	CG CG DCG	GD GD AGD
Bridge	EEAA EEAA DEAE DEAE	Am C G D Am C G D	Am C G D Am C G D	Bm D Bm G Bm F#m GA

Chords Used in this Song – Main Arrangement in G, Capo on 2

G	Em	C	D	Am

A Nickel Short of a Dime

Verse 1

G
It's one of those nights
You find yourself wandering alone **Em**
Poundin' the city pavement **C**
Lookin' for a heart on loan **G**
Feelin' torn and tattered **G**
Discarded and disowned **Em**
Lost in the crowd **C**
A long long way from home **D**

Verse 2

G
Floatin' down the block
One step ahead of the pace **Em**
Blowin' through walk lights **C**
Tryin' to out run the rat race **G**
Slippin' 'tween the gaps **G**
Gettin' lost in time and space **Em**
Need to wash away my sins **C**
Try to save a little face **D**

Chorus 1

C
Feeling past my prime
G
A nickel short of a dime
G
Running low on time

C
A nickel short of a dime
D
Got a mountain to climb
C **G**
A nickel short of a dime

Verse 3

G
I dive into this club
Em
Lookin' to drown in drink
C
To be swallowed up in jazz
G
So I don't have to think
G
Singer eyes me up and down
Em
Gives me a little wink
C
She sees my eyes swimming
D
She knows she can make me sink

Verse 4

G
The music hums
Em
My lungs inhale the bass
C
My eyes pulse
G
'bout to jump right from my face
G
There ain't much room to breathe
Em
In this claustrophobic space
C
I wanna dissipate like smoke
D
Disappear without a trace

Chorus 2

C
Then she sang so sublime
G
To this nickel short of a dime
C
I'm lost in the singer's rhymes
G
A nickel short of a dime
D
Floatin' between her lines
C **G**
A nickel short of a dime

Bridge

Am
Now a working girl sits down
C
Starts showering me with lies
G
She may not be book smart
D
But I knew she was street wise
G
I hide behind sunglasses
Em
So she can't see my eyes
C
Who am I to judge her?
D
We all live in a disguise

Verse 5

G
Back up on the street
Em
In retreat from where I was at
C
Streakin' through the alley
G
Tryin' to blend in with the cats
G
Dancin' past the dumpsters
Em
So swift I scare the rats
C

Chasin' the full moon back
To the bridge of a million bats

Verse 6

The doorman saw me coming
And gave me a wide berth
As if he'd just seen an eruption
From the center of the earth
I knew he had some questions
Some doubt about my worth
But he just stepped aside
Like he'd witnessed a rebirth

Chorus 3

This city's stained with smoke and grime
A lot of nickels short of a dime
Felt like I fled the scene of a crime
A nickel short of a dime
Need to clean off this slime
A nickel short of a dime

Verse 7

Sometimes you play the fool
Sometimes you play for keeps
Sometimes you're on the attack
Other times you're in retreat

Like Travis Bickle said
From the perch of the taxi seat **Em**
"Someday a real rain will come **C**
And wash all this scum off the street" **D**

Chorus

C
Life's just a victimless crime
G
A nickel short of a dime
C
Gotta burn the overtime
G
A nickel short of a dime
D
It's new world paradigm
C
A nickel short
G
A nickel short of a dime

A Nickel Short of a Dime

Verse 1

It's one of those nights
You find yourself wandering alone
Poundin' the city pavement
Lookin' for a heart on loan
Feelin' torn and tattered
Discarded and disowned
Lost in the crowd
A long long way from home

Verse 2

Floatin' down the block
One step ahead of the pace
Blowin' through walk lights
Tryin' to out run the rat race
Slippin' 'tween the gaps
Gettin' lost in time and space
Need to wash away my sins
Try to save a little face

Chorus 1

Feeling past my prime
A nickel short of a dime
Running low on time
A nickel short of a dime
Got a mountain to climb
A nickel short of a dime

Verse 3

I dive into this club
Lookin' to drown in drink
To be swallowed up in jazz
So I don't have to think
Singer eyes me up and down
Gives me a little wink
She sees my eyes swimming
She knows she can make me sink

Verse 4

The music hums
My lungs inhale the bass
My eyes pulse
'bout to jump right from my face
There ain't much room to breathe
In this claustrophobic space
I wanna dissipate like smoke
Disappear without a trace

Chorus 2

Then she sang so sublime
To this nickel short of a dime
I'm lost in the singer's rhymes
A nickel short of a dime
Floatin' between her lines
A nickel short of a dime

Bridge

Now a working girl sits down
Starts showering me with lies
She may not be book smart
But I knew she was street wise
I hide behind sunglasses
So she can't see my eyes
Who am I to judge her?
We all live in a disguise

Verse 5

Back up on the street
In retreat from where I was at
Streakin' through the alley
Tryin' to blend in with the cats
Dancin' past the dumpsters
So swift I scare the rats
Chasin' the full moon back
To the bridge of a million bats

Verse 6

The doorman saw me coming
And gave me a wide berth
As if he'd just seen an eruption
From the center of the earth
I knew he had some questions
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But he just stepped aside
Like he'd witnessed a rebirth

Chorus 3

This city's stained with smoke and grime
A lot of nickels short of a dime
Felt like I fled the scene of a crime
A nickel short of a dime
Need to clean off this slime
A nickel short of a dime

Verse 7

Sometimes you play the fool
Sometimes you play for keeps
Sometimes you're on the attack
Other times you're in retreat
Like Travis Bickle said
From the perch of the taxi seat
"Someday a real rain will come
And wash all this scum off the street"

Chorus 4

Life's just a victimless crime
A nickel short of a dime
Gotta burn the overtime
A nickel short of a dime
It's new world paradigm
A nickel short
A nickel short of a dime

A Nickel Short of a Dime

(Long Version)

<p>Verse 1 It's one of those late nights You find yourself wandering alone Poundin' the city pavement Lookin' for a heart on loan Feelin' torn and tattered Discarded and disowned Lost in the crowd A long long way from home</p>	<p>Verse 3 I dive into this club Lookin' to drown in drink To be swallowed up in jazz So I don't have to think Singer eyes me up and down Gives me a little wink She sees my eyes swimming She knows she can make me sink</p>	<p>Bridge Now a working girl sits down Starts showering me with lies She may not be book smart But I knew she was street wise I hide behind sunglasses So she can't see my eyes Who am I to judge her? We all live in a disguise</p>	<p>Chorus 3 This city's stained with smoke and grime A lot of nickels short of a dime Felt like I fled the scene of a crime A nickel short of a dime Need to clean off this slime A nickel short of a dime</p>
<p>Verse 2 Floatin' down the block One step ahead of the pace Blowin' through walk lights Tryin' to out run the rat race Slippin' 'tween the gaps Gettin' lost in time and space Need to wash away my sins Try to save a little face</p>	<p>Verse 4 The music hums My lungs inhale the bass My eyes pulse 'bout to jump right from my face There ain't much room to breathe In this claustrophobic space I wanna dissipate like smoke Disappear without a trace</p>	<p>Verse 5 Back up on the street In retreat from where I was at Streakin' through the alley Tryin' to blend in with the cats Dancin' past the dumpsters So swift I scare the rats Chasin' the full moon back To the bridge of a million bats</p>	<p>Verse 7 Sometimes you play the fool Sometimes you play for keeps Sometimes you're on the attack Other times you're in retreat Like Travis Bickle said From the perch of the taxi seat "Someday a real rain will come And wash all this scum off the street"</p>
<p>Chorus 1 Feeling past my prime A nickel short of a dime Running low on time A nickel short of a dime Got a mountain to climb A nickel short of a dime</p>	<p>Chorus 2 Then she sang so sublime To this nickel short of a dime I'm lost in the singer's rhymes A nickel short of a dime Floatin' between her lines A nickel short of a dime</p>	<p>Verse 6 The doorman saw me coming And gave me a wide berth As if he'd just seen an eruption From the center of the earth I knew he had some questions Some doubt about my worth But he just stepped aside Like he'd witnessed a rebirth</p>	<p>Chorus 4 Life's just a victimless crime A nickel short of a dime Gotta burn the overtime A nickel short of a dime It's new world paradigm A nickel short A nickel short of a dime</p>

A Nickel Short of a Dime

<p>Verse: G Em C G G Em C D</p>	<p>Chorus: C G x2 D C G</p>	<p>Bridge: Am C G D x2</p>
<p>Verse 1 It's one of those late nights You find yourself wandering alone Poundin' the city pavement Lookin' for a heart on loan Feelin' torn and tattered Discarded and disowned Lost in the crowd A long long way from home</p>	<p>Chorus 2 Then she sang so sublime To this nickel short of a dime I'm lost in the singer's rhymes A nickel short of a dime Floatin' between her lines A nickel short of a dime</p>	<p>Chorus 3 This city's stained with smoke and grime A lot of nickels short of a dime Felt like I fled the scene of a crime A nickel short of a dime Need to clean off this slime A nickel short of a dime</p>
<p>Chorus 1 Feeling past my prime A nickel short of a dime Running low on time A nickel short of a dime Got a mountain to climb A nickel short of a dime</p>	<p>Bridge Now a working girl sits down Starts showering me with lies She may not be book smart But I knew she was street wise I hide behind sunglasses So she can't see my eyes Who am I to judge her? We all live in a disguise</p>	<p>Verse 4 Sometimes you play the fool Sometimes you play for keeps Sometimes you're on the attack Other times you're in retreat Like Travis Bickle said From the perch of the taxi seat "Someday a real rain will come And wash all this scum off the street"</p>
<p>Verse 2 I dive into this club Lookin' to drown in drink To be swallowed up in jazz So I don't have to think Singer eyes me up and down Gives me a little wink She sees my eyes swimming She knows she can make me sink</p>	<p>Verse 3 Back up on the street In retreat from where I was at Streakin' through the alley Tryin' to blend in with the cats Dancin' past the dumpsters So swift I scare the rats Chasin' the full moon back To the bridge of a million bats</p>	<p>Chorus 4 Life's just a victimless crime A nickel short of a dime Gotta burn the overtime A nickel short of a dime It's new world paradigm A nickel short A nickel short of a dime</p>