

# Reckoning

## (The R.E.M. Song)

**Background:** A tribute to R.E.M., one of my favorite bands, particularly in the 80s and early 90s. There were times when I thought they might be the only band that mattered. They were a huge part of the soundtrack to my high school and college days. Their influence on popular music is enormous. This song's structure, minor intonation, chord progression, jangly guitar, images, and of course the Reckoning (their second album) all pay homage to the band. The chorus contains words from the Reckonings of all of their studio albums, and there are other hidden or not so hidden references. **Written:** 2023

Arr.	Key	Time	Tuning	Tempo	Style	Capo
1	Em	4/4	Standard	140	R.E.M.	None

<b>Arrangement</b>	1
<b>Intro</b>	
<b>Verse</b>	Em G D Am7 x2
<b>Chorus</b>	C G D Em7 x3 C G D Cadd9
<b>Bridge</b>	F C Am7 G x2

### Chords Used in this Song

Em	G	D	Am7	F	C	Em7

Cadd9

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## Verse

**Em**

Pylons line the interstate

**G**

Fasten your seatbelts tight

**D**

The power lines are down

**Am7**

Leaving the city dark tonight

**Em**

Temp has dipped to 5 below

**G**

The power grid can't keep up

**D**

Roads are slick and icy

**Am7**

Winter's wind won't let up

## Chorus

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this Chronic Town

**D**

Murmurs break the silence

**Em7**

Fables break you down

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this chronic town

**D**

Life once rich with pageantry

**Cadd9**

Collapses into now

## Verse

**Em**

Trash blows across the road

**G**

Winter's wind has no pride

**D**

Take the backroads north

**Am7**

Settle in for a rough ride

**Em**

There's a rusty truss bridge

**G**

Crossing the old train tracks

**D**

Make the first left on the other side

**Am7**

Right where the asphalt cracks

## Chorus

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this chronic town

**D**

Monsters own the corners

**Em7**

Lost faces in the crowd

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this chronic town

**D**

Seasons change is automatic

**Cadd9**

Green fields turn to brown

## Bridge

**F**

The wind blows the fallen leaves

**Am7**

**C**

**G**

A full moon floats above the trees

**F** **C**

Rumors spread like a disease

**Am7** **G**

Your eyes move rapidly in dreams

### **Verse**

**Em**

Meet me out old 124

**G**

Where the small airplanes land

**D**

There's a field behind the runway

**Am7**

Just past the longest span

**Em**

All flights are grounded

**G**

They'll be no one there tonight

**D**

Find the live oak with a hollow trunk

**Am7**

Leave the package inside

### **Chorus**

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this chronic town

**D**

New adventures up around the sun

**Em**

Out of time and out of bounds

**C**

It's a day of reckoning

**G**

In this chronic town

**D**

Rapid eye movements accelerate

**Cadd9**

Reveal dream sleep so sound

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(The R.E.M. Song)

## Verse

Pylons line the interstate  
Fasten your seatbelts tight  
The power lines are down  
Leaving the city dark tonight  
Temp has dipped to 5 below  
The power grid can't keep up  
Roads are slick and icy  
Winter's wind won't let up

## Chorus

It's a day of reckoning  
In this Chronic Town  
Murmurs break the silence  
Fables break you down  
It's a day of reckoning  
In this chronic town  
Life once rich with pageantry  
Collapses into now

## Verse

Trash blows across the road  
Winter's wind has no pride  
Take the backroads north  
Settle in for a rough ride  
There's a rusty truss bridge  
Crossing the old train tracks  
Make the first left on the other side  
Right where the asphalt cracks

## Chorus

It's a day of reckoning  
In this chronic town  
Monsters own the corners  
Lost faces in the crowd  
It's a day of reckoning

In this chronic town  
Seasons change is automatic  
Green fields turn to brown

### **Bridge**

The wind blows the fallen leaves  
A full moon floats above the trees  
Rumors spread like a disease  
Your eyes move rapidly in dreams

### **Verse**

Meet me out old 124  
Where the small airplanes land  
There's a field behind the runway  
Just past the longest span  
All flights are grounded  
They'll be no one there tonight  
Find the live oak with a hollow trunk  
Leave the package inside

### **Chorus**

It's a day of reckoning  
In this chronic town  
New adventures up around the sun  
Out of time and out of bounds  
It's a day of reckoning  
In this chronic town  
Rapid eye movements accelerate  
Reveal dream sleep so sound

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(The R.E.M. Song)

<p><b>Verse:</b> Em G D Am7</p>	<p><b>Chorus:</b> C G D Em7 x3 C G D Cadd9 <b>Bridge:</b> F C Am7 G x2</p>
<p><b>Verse</b> Pylons line the interstate Fasten your seatbelts tight The power lines are down Leaving the city dark tonight Temp has dipped to 5 below The power grid can't keep up Roads are slick and icy Winter's wind won't let up</p>	<p><b>Chorus</b> It's a day of reckoning In this chronic town Monsters own the corners Lost faces in the crowd It's a day of reckoning In this chronic town Seasons change is automatic Green fields turn to brown</p>
<p><b>Chorus</b> It's a day of reckoning In this Chronic Town Murmurs break the silence Fables break you down It's a day of reckoning In this chronic town Life once rich with pageantry Collapses into now</p>	<p><b>Bridge</b> The wind blows the fallen leaves A full moon floats above the trees Rumors spread like a disease Your eyes move rapidly in dreams</p>
<p><b>Verse</b> Trash blows across the road Winter's wind has no pride Take the backroads north Settle in for a rough ride There's a rusty truss bridge Crossing the old train tracks Make the first left on the other side Right where the asphalt cracks</p>	<p><b>Verse</b> Meet me out old 124 Where the small airplanes land There's a field behind the runway Just past the longest span All flights are grounded They'll be no one there tonight Find the live oak with a hollow trunk Leave the package inside</p>
	<p><b>Chorus</b> It's a day of reckoning In this chronic town New adventures up around the sun Out of time and out of bounds It's a day of reckoning In this chronic town Rapid eye movements accelerate Reveal dream sleep so sound</p>