

# 16 Inside

**Background:** This became my 100th song, a milestone. It's a very Bruce-like song, being nostalgic about being young, high school, parties, the boardwalk, running from cops, chasing girls, living without obligation. Most of it is accurate, with some imagination around the edges.

**Written:** September 2024

Arr.	Key	Time	Tuning	Tempo	Style	Capo
1	C	4/4	Standard	140	Rock and Roll	None*

\*second guitar, capo on 5, start in D relative to capo (still in G)

Arrangement	1
Intro	G Gadd11 G Gadd11
Verse	C G D G x2 D Am C D G
Chorus	C G C G D Am C D G (Back to Intro 2x)
Bridge	Am C G D x2
Ending	Gadd11 G Gadd11 G Gadd11 G

## Chords Used in this Song

G	Gadd11	C	Am	D	Dsus	Dsus2

Cadd9	Asus2	AmAdd11

# 16 Inside

## Verse 1

**C**

Remember all those parties

**G**

Where high school teens would meet

**D**

In backyards and random fields

**G**

Down basements and dead-end streets

**C**

Sometimes bands would play and the kids would sway

**G**

And we felt like we were kings

**D**

With the sound of quarters bouncing

**G**

You could barely hear the singer sing

**D**

In that world we could just exist

**Am**

It was our place to hide

**C**                      **D** **G** **Gadd11** **G** **Gadd11**

We were all just 16 inside

## Verse 2

**C**

Remember hitch hiking down Coastal Highway

**G**

To where the boardwalk ends

**D**

We rode The Zipper and Himalaya

**G**

Over and over again

**C**

Chasing girls outside Playland arcade

**G**

Down 'round Thrasher's Fries

**D**

That smell of caramel popcorn

**G**

And girls that could burn your eyes

**D**

Even 19 seemed so old then

**Am**

Adult life a distant compromise

**C** **D** **G**

We were all just 16 inside

### **Chorus 1**

**C**

(16 inside) Round and Round

**G**

(16 inside) That summer sound

**C**

(16 inside) Running around

**G**

(16 inside)

**D**

When it was good enough

**Am**

To just be along for the ride

**C** **D** **G**

We were all just 16 inside

### **Verse 3**

**C**

Her porch had no screen door to slam

**G**

But her dress swayed anyway

**D**

Her Daddy yelled something from behind her

**G**

But she didn't even turn to wave

**C**

She reminded me of a nail polish model

**G**

Torn out of a magazine

**D**

With no desire to be rich or famous

**G**

But just to fill the space in between

**D**

It didn't matter where we were going

**Am**

The destination was the ride

**C** **D** **G**

We were both just 16 inside

### **Chorus 2**

**C**

(16 inside) Radio blarin'

**G**

(16 inside) Not a care

**C**

(16 inside) Chasing dares

**G**

(16 inside)

**D**

When it was good enough

**Am**

To just be along for the ride

**C** **D** **G**

We were both just 16 inside

### **Bridge 1**

**Am**

Searching for hidden treasures

**C**

Indulging guilty pleasures

**G**

**D**

We walked like stars in a Broadway show

**Am**

And when she said the songs like this I sing

**C**



**G**  
We are still partners in crime  
**D**  
So put this car's top down  
**Am**  
And let's take a joy ride  
**C**                    **D**        **G**  
We are all still 16 inside

**Chorus 3 (backup singers sing "16 Inside" on highlighted word)**

**C**  
16 inside  
**G**  
When songs **defined us** (16 inside)  
**C**  
They are the ties **that bind us** (16 inside)  
**G**  
No one could **ever find us** (16 inside)  
**D**  
When it was good enough  
**Am**  
To just be along for the ride  
**C**                    **D**        **G**  
We were all just 16 inside

**Chorus 4 (with backup singers)**

**C**  
16 inside  
**G**  
Summer nights **remind us** (16 inside)  
**C**  
How true love **can blind us** (16 inside)  
**G**  
How the world **can grind us** down (16 inside)  
**D**  
How it was once good enough

**Am**  
To just be along for the ride  
**C** **D** **G**  
We'll always be just 16 inside

**Ending**

**D**  
So let those summer nights drift back in

**Am**  
Let's find a new place to hide  
**C** **D** **G**  
We are all still 16 inside

**C** **D** **G** **Gadd11** **G** **Gadd11** **G** **Gadd11** **G**  
Yeah we'll always be 16 inside

# 16 Inside

## Verse 1

Remember all those parties  
Where high school teens would meet  
In backyards and random fields  
Down basements and dead-end streets  
Sometimes bands would play and the kids would sway  
And we felt like we were kings  
With the sound of quarters bouncing  
You could barely hear the singer sing  
In that world we could just exist  
It was our place to hide  
We were all just 16 inside

## Verse 2

Remember hitch hiking down Coastal Highway  
To where the boardwalk ends  
We rode The Zipper and Himalaya  
Over and over again  
Chasing girls outside Playland arcade  
Down 'round Thrasher's Fries  
That smell of caramel popcorn  
And girls that could burn your eyes  
Even 19 seemed so old then  
Adult life a distant compromise  
We were all just 16 inside

## Chorus 1

(16 inside) Round and Round  
(16 inside) That summer sound  
(16 inside) Running around  
(16 inside)  
When it was good enough  
To just be along for the ride  
We were all just 16 inside

### **Verse 3**

Her porch had no screen door to slam  
But her dress swayed anyway  
Her Daddy yelled something from behind her  
But she didn't even turn to wave  
She reminded me of a nail polish model  
Torn out of a magazine  
With no desire to be rich or famous  
But just to fill the space in between  
It didn't matter where we were going  
The destination was the ride  
We were both just 16 inside

### **Chorus 2**

(16 inside) Radio blarin'  
(16 inside) Not a care  
(16 inside) Chasing dares  
(16 inside)  
When it was good enough  
To just be along for the ride  
We were both just 16 inside

### **Bridge 1**

Searching for hidden treasures  
Indulging guilty pleasures  
We walked like stars in a Broadway show  
And when she said the songs like this I sing  
Sound way too much like Springsteen  
I said, hey girl thanks, that's good to know

### **Solo / Interlude**

### **Bridge 2**

Pool hopping and High School dances  
Football games and short romances  
Running from the cops and hopping fences  
Taking wild stupid chances  
Like we had 9 lives  
We were all just 16 inside

#### **Verse 4**

Well we're all grown up now  
In fact our kids are nearly grown  
I don't know where all the years have gone  
Feels like we're in the twilight zone  
But when we get together now  
We go back to simpler times  
It's like we never left  
Why would we want to?  
We are still partners in crime  
So put this car's top down  
And let's take a joy ride  
We are all still 16 inside

#### **Chorus 3 (backup singers sing "16 Inside" on highlighted word)**

16 inside  
When songs **defined us** (16 inside)  
They are the ties **that bind us** (16 inside)  
No one could **ever find us** (16 inside)  
When it was good enough  
To just be along for the ride  
We were all just 16 inside

#### **Chorus 4 (with backup singers)**

16 inside  
Summer nights **remind us** (16 inside)  
How true love **can blind us** (16 inside)  
How the world **can grind us** down (16 inside)  
How it was once good enough  
To just be along for the ride  
We'll always be just 16 inside

#### **Ending**

So let those summer nights drift back in  
Let's find a new place to hide  
We are all still 16 inside

Yeah we'll always be 16 inside

# 16 Inside

<b>Verse:</b> C G D G C G D G D Am C D G	<b>Chorus:</b> C G C G D Am C D G <b>Bridge:</b> Am C G D Am C G D
<b>Verse 1</b> Remember all those parties Where high school teens would meet In backyards and random fields Down basements and dead-end streets Sometimes bands would play and the kids would sway And we felt like we were kings With the sound of quarters bouncing You could barely hear the singer sing In that world we could just exist It was our place to hide We were all just 16 inside	<b>Bridge 1</b> Searching for hidden treasures Indulging guilty pleasures We walked like stars in a Broadway show And when she said the songs like this I sing Sound way too much like Springsteen I said, hey girl thanks, that's good to know
<b>Verse 2</b> Remember hitch hiking down Coastal Highway To where the boardwalk ends We rode The Zipper and Himalaya Over and over again Chasing girls outside Playland arcade Down 'round Thrasher's Fries That smell of caramel popcorn And girls that could burn your eyes Even 19 seemed so old then Adult life a distant compromise We were all just 16 inside	<b>Interlude</b> <b>Bridge 2</b> Pool hopping and High School dances Football games and short romances Running from the cops and hopping fences Taking wild stupid chances Like we had 9 lives We were all just 16 inside
<b>Chorus 1</b> (16 inside) Round and Round (16 inside) That summer sound (16 inside) Running around (16 inside) When it was good enough To just be along for the ride We were all just 16 inside	<b>Verse 4</b> Well we're all grown up now In fact our kids are nearly grown I don't know where all the years have gone Feels like we're in the twilight zone But when we get together now We go back to simpler times It's like we never left Why would we want to? We are still partners in crime So put this car's top down And let's take a joy ride We are all still 16 inside
<b>Verse 3</b> Her porch had no screen door to slam But her dress swayed anyway Her Daddy yelled something from behind her But she didn't even turn to wave She reminded me of a nail polish model Torn out of a magazine With not desire to be rich or famous But just to fill the space in between It didn't matter where we were going The destination was the ride We were both just 16 inside	<b>Chorus 3</b> 16 inside When songs defined us (16 inside) They are the ties that bind us (16 inside) No one could ever find us (16 inside) When it was good enough To just be along for the ride We were all just 16 inside
<b>Chorus 2</b> (16 inside) Radio blarin' (16 inside) Not a care (16 inside) Chasing dares (16 inside) When it was good enough To just be along for the ride We were both just 16 inside	<b>Chorus 4</b> 16 inside Summer nights remind us (16 inside) How true love can blind us (16 inside) How the world can grind us down (16 inside) How it was once good enough To just be along for the ride We'll always be just 16 inside
<b>Ending</b> So let those summer nights drift back in Let's find a new place to hide We are all still 16 inside Yeah we'll always be 16 inside	<b>Ending</b> So let those summer nights drift back in Let's find a new place to hide We are all still 16 inside Yeah we'll always be 16 inside