

Seven Locks Road

Background: Bruce Springsteen once said that to write a song, latch on to a nice metaphor and go from there. Inject a bit of truth and reality to make it seem real - and to a degree it is - but embellish it with some exaggeration to make it seem larger than life. No one does that better than Bruce, who created fictional characters based on real life people or composites, with nicknames and a life unfolding in what was really just a random beach town with a tiny nondescript boardwalk that he breathed life into to make it seem bigger than Las Vegas or Monte Carlo. For those there back then, it was.

This is a song that speaks to a piece of lost Americana outside of Washington DC (the C&O Canal), threaded with some local icons (Great Falls, the Potomac River, Georgetown, the Chesapeake Bay), and a road with a prison at one end and the Potomac River at the other. But that's not really what the song is about.

The back story is fictional but meant to have meaning threaded through the song in symbols and metaphors. It is deliberately vague and left with minimal context or resolution so as to allow the listener to interpret however it impacts them. However they do, it is right. But look for the symbolism in the words and phrasing, particularly the second verse, which really isn't about the Potomac River.

The C&O canal shut down 100 years from the year I coincidentally wrote this song, in 1924. Like anything that was once significant, there are remnants of it.

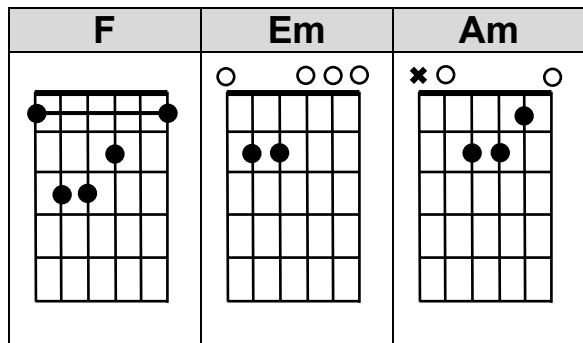
Written: Spring 2024

Arr.	Key	Time	Tuning	Tempo	Style	Capo
1	G	4/4	Standard	135	Acoustic Rock/Folk	None

Arrangement	1
Intro	G5 Dadd9 Em7 Cadd9
Verse	G5 Dadd9 Em7 Cadd9
Pre-chorus	G D Em7 C
Bridge	F C Am Em F C G D
Chorus	G5 D Am C

Chords Used in this Song

G(5)	Dadd9	Em7	Cadd9	C	D



Seven Locks Road

Verse 1

G5

She climbed the rocks

Dadd9

To watch the rapids descend

Em7

To get closer to her God

Cadd9

Maybe he'll wash away her sins

G5

As if Great Falls could cleanse her soul

Dadd9

As if contrition could set her free

Em7

Her baptism by fire is now just

Cadd9

A graveyard of bad memories

Pre-chorus 1

Am

From the river to the prison

C

Lost souls are condemned to go

G

From the prison to the river

D

Redemption rises slow

Em

Down past Carderock

Am

To where the Potomac River flows

C

D

Her spirit leads your soul

Chorus

G5
Down Seven Locks Road
D
Down Seven Locks Road
Am
Down Seven Locks Road
C
Down Seven Locks Road

Verse 2

G5
Through all her twists and turns
Dadd9
Where water and rocks collide
Em7
Lay all she's seen and heard
Cadd9
But it's never the same way twice
G5
Into Georgetown her heart bleeds
Dadd9
Out to the Chesapeake
Em7
Where whispers paint the wind
Cadd9
And legends create their mystique

Pre-chorus 2

Am
From the river to the prison
C
Lost souls are condemned to go
G
From the prison to the river
D
Absolution rises slow
Em
Down past Carderock
Am

To where the Potomac River flows

C **D**

Her spirit grieves alone

Chorus

G5

Down Seven Locks Road

D

Down Seven Locks Road

Am

Down Seven Locks Road

C

Down Seven Locks Road

Bridge

F

The canal used to run through here

C

For a mile and a quarter more

Am

These 7 locks breathed life into a town

Em

That didn't know rich from poor

F

Bringing Allegheny coal

C

From '31 to '24

G

She's been dead now, shutdown

D

For 100 years or more

D

100 years or more

Harmonica Break or Guitar Interlude

Verse 3

G5

She climbed back down the rocks

Dadd9

As the sun shared a last encore

Em7

Before dipping beneath the sky

Cadd9

Just like every day before

G5

If the night forgives the day that gently

Dadd9

Then surely you and I can mend

Em7

Because after all this water dries

Cadd9

I know you'll need a friend

Pre-chorus 3

Am

From the river to the prison

C

Lost souls are condemned to go

G

From the prison to the river

D

Salvation rises slow

Em

Down past Carderock

Am

To where the Potomac River flows

C

D

Her spirit leaves your soul

Chorus

G5

Down Seven Locks Road

D

Down Seven Locks Road

Am

Down Seven Locks Road

C

Down Seven Locks Road

Outro

G5

Every time I think of you

Dadd9

I feel the blood burn in my veins

Em7

Every time I wake up

Cadd9

I can only scream your name

G5

I never meant to hurt you

Dadd9

To cause you this much pain

Em7

I don't know where you are now

Cadd9

But I know I'll see you again

Cadd9

Yeah I'll see you again

G5

Down Seven Locks Road

Down Seven Locks Road

Harmonica Outro

Seven Locks Road

Verse 1

She climbed the rocks
To watch the rapids descend
To get closer to her God
Maybe he'll wash away her sins
As if Great Falls could cleanse her soul
As if contrition could set her free
Her baptism by fire is now just
A graveyard of bad memories

Pre-chorus 1

From the river to the prison
Lost souls are condemned to go
From the prison to the river
Redemption rises slow
Down past Carderock
To where the Potomac River flows
Her spirit leads your soul

Chorus

Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road

Verse 2

Through all her twists and turns
Where water and rocks collide
Lay all she's seen and heard
But it's never the same way twice
Into Georgetown her heart bleeds
Out to the Chesapeake
Where whispers paint the wind
And legends create their mystique

Pre-chorus 2

From the river to the prison
Lost souls are condemned to go

From the prison to the river
Absolution arrives slow
Down past Carderock
To where the Potomac River flows
Her spirit grieves alone

Chorus

Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road

Bridge

The canal used to run through here
For a mile and a quarter more
These 7 locks breathed life into a town
That didn't know rich from poor
Bringing Allegheny coal
From '31 to '24
She's been dead now, shutdown
For 100 years or more
100 years or more

Verse 3

She climbed back down the rocks
As the sun shared a last encore
Before dipping beneath the sky
Just like every day before
If the night forgives the day that gently
Then surely you and I can mend
Because after all this water dries
I know you'll need a friend

Pre-chorus 3

From the river to the prison
Lost souls are condemned to go
From the prison to the river
Salvation rises slow
Down past Carderock
To where the Potomac River flows

Her spirit leaves your soul

Chorus

Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road

Outro

Every time I think of you
I feel the blood burn in my veins
Every time I wake up
I can only scream your name
I never meant to hurt you
To cause you this much pain
I don't know where you are now
But I know I'll see you again
Yeah I'll see you again
Down Seven Locks Road
Down Seven Locks Road

Seven Locks Road

<p>Verse: G5 Dadd9 Em7 Cadd9 Pre-chorus: Am C G D Em Am C D</p>	<p>Chorus: G D Am C Bridge : F C Am Em F C G D</p>
<p>Verse 1 She climbed the rocks To watch the rapids descend To get closer to her God Maybe he'll wash away her sins As if Great Falls could cleanse her soul As if contrition could set her free Her baptism by fire is now just A graveyard of bad memories</p>	<p>Bridge The canal used to run through here For a mile and a quarter more These 7 locks breathed life into a town That didn't know rich from poor Bringing Allegheny coal From '31 to '24 She's been dead now, shutdown For 100 years or more</p>
<p>Pre-chorus 1 From the river to the prison Lost souls are condemned to go From the prison to the river Redemption rises slow Down past Carderock To where the Potomac River flows Her spirit leads your soul</p>	<p>Verse 3 She climbed back down the rocks As the sun shared a last encore Before dipping beneath the sky Just like every day before If the night forgives the day that gently Then surely you and I can mend Because after all this water dries I know you'll need a friend</p>
<p>Chorus Down Seven Locks Road Down Seven Locks Road Down Seven Locks Road Down Seven Locks Road</p>	<p>Pre-chorus 3 From the river to the prison Lost souls are condemned to go From the prison to the river Salvation rises slow Down past Carderock To where the Potomac River flows Her spirit leaves your soul</p>
<p>Verse 2 Through all her twists and turns Where water and rocks collide Lay all she's seen and heard But it's never the same way twice Into Georgetown her heart bleeds Out to the Chesapeake Where whispers paint the wind And legends create their mystique</p>	<p>Chorus</p>
<p>Pre-chorus 2 From the river to the prison Lost souls are condemned to go From the prison to the river Absolution arrives slow Down past Carderock To where the Potomac River flows Her spirit grieves alone</p>	<p>Outro (Optional) Every time I think of you I feel the blood burn in my veins Every time I wake up I can only scream your name You know I never meant to hurt you To cause you this much pain I don't know where you are now But I know I'll see you again Yeah I'll see you again Down Seven Locks Road Down Seven Locks Road</p>
<p>Chorus</p>	<p>Harmonica Outro</p>