

JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

I Had A King

Author: Mia Ortlieb

DADDAD, 'Joni' Tuning: x75075, Capo 7

This transcription is the author's own work and represents their interpretation of the song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. Copyrighted material on this website is used in accordance with 'Fair Use'

This guitar tuning, which really brings out the ringing tones and droning effects of this dark song, is known as "DOUBLE DADS" or "DADDAD". The capo should be up 7 frets. Like in many of Joni's songs, open strings are sometimes played between the chord changes, in which I have indicated in parentheses. Additionally, the symbol A = 10th fret, and the symbol C = 12th fret.

Intro: 055400 (x0xxxx) 033200 (x0xxxx)

055400 (x0xxxx) 033200

I had a king in a tenement castle, Lately he's taken to painting the

070700 080800

pastel walls brown, He's taken the curtains down,

000000 0C0000 000000 0A0000 000000 080000 He's swept with the broom of contempt, And the rooms have an empty

070000 000000 0C0000 000000 0A0000 ring, He's cleaned with the tears of an actor who

000000 080000 070000 070000 070000 000000

fears for the laughter's sting

(chorus)

055000 000055 000054 00005x 000000

I can't go back there any more,

055000 000055 000054 00005x 000000

You know my keys wont fit the door,

055000 000055 000054 00005x 000000 You know my thoughts don't fit the man,

033200 (x0xxxx) 055400 (x0xxxx)

They never can, they never can

(for ending on third chorus add:)

033200 (x0xxxx) 055400 000200 They never can, They never can

Add'l lyrics:

I had a king dressed in drip-dry and paisley
Lately he's taken to saying I'm crazy and blind
He lives in another time
Ladies in gingham still blush
While he sings them of wars and wine
But I in my leather and lace
I can never become that kind ____
(chorus)

I had a king in a salt-rusted carriage
Who carried me off to his country for marriage too soon
Beware of the power of moons
There's no one to blame
No there's no one to name as a traitor here
The king's on the road
And the queen's in the grove till the end of the year ___
(chorus)