



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

Borderline

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BF#D#D#F#B, 'Joni' Tuning: B79035

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Here's a song I fell in love with when I first heard it on Turbulent Indigo. I learned the chords from watching Joni's fingers on the PBS documentary on Troubadours of Folk Festival, where she first introduced the song. This is very classic Joni melody writing, on a par with Both Sides Now in its folk simplicity. The chords are not that exotic or jazzy, but there's a fluidity to the chord changes that really heightens the emotions of the lyrics - a Joni trademark!

As before, I have not included the right-hand fingering - it's best left to the individual player to flesh out. Select a tuning that best suits your voice (the fingering is the same for all three):

Tuning on Turbulent Indigo album: BF#D#D#F#B (my guitar goes dead this low!)

Tuning on live performance: CGCEGC

Also can be played in DADF#AD

4/4

Intro:

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||| ||| ||| |||
555500 220100 555500 220100
||| ||| ||| |||
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Verse 1:

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575655 555555
Everybody looks so ill at ease
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575655 555555
So distrustful so displeased
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575655 (070600) 0 12 12 12 12 0
Running down this table I see a borderline
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0 13 13 13 13 0 0 12 12 12 12 0
Like a barbed wire fence

0 13 13 13 13 0
Strung tight

0 12 12 12 12 0
Strung tense

0 13 13 13 13 0 990800
Prickling with pretense

777777
A borderline

797877 777777 797877 777777
Why are you smirking at your friend

797877 990800 555555
Is this to be the night when all well-wishing ends

575655 555555
All credibility revoked

575655
Thin skin

555555
Thick jokes

575655 (0 12 12 12 12 0)
Can we blame it on the smoke

555500
This borderline

220100 555500 220100

Verse 2:

Every bristling shaft of pride
Church or nation
Team or tribe
Every notion we subscribe to
Is just a borderline
Good or bad we think we know
As if thinking makes things so!
All convictions grow along a borderline
Smug in your jaded expertise
You scathe the wonder world
And you praise barbarity
In this illusionary place
This scared hard-edged rat race
All liberty is laced with
Borderlines

Verse 3:

Every income every age
Every fashion-plated rage
Every measure every gauge
Creates a borderline
Every stone thrown through glass
Every mean-streets-kick ass
Every swan caught on the grass
Will draw a borderline
You snipe so steady
You snub so snide
So ripe and ready
To diminish and deride!
You're so quick to condescend
My opinionated friend
All you deface all you defend
Is just a borderline
Just a borderline

555500 220100 555500 220100

Another borderline

555500 220100 555500 220100

Just a borderline

555500 220100 555500 220100

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