

The Stranger Song  
written by Leonard Cohen

Tuning: D G C F A D (standard, full step down)

Intro: F#m

D C D A  
It's true that all the men you knew were dealers

E  
Who said they were through with dealing

F#m  
Every time you gave them shelter

E  
I know that kind of man

F#m  
It's hard to hold the hand of anyone

E F#m  
Who is reaching for the sky just to surrender

E F#m  
Who is reaching for the sky just to surrender

And then sweeping up the jokers that he left behind

You find he did not leave you very much

Not even laughter

Like any dealer he was watching for the card

That is so high and wild

He'll never need to deal another

He was just some Joseph looking for a manger

He was just some Joseph looking for a manger

And then leaning on your window sill

He'll say one day you caused his will

To weaken with your love and warmth and shelter

And then taking from his wallet

An old schedule of trains, he'll say

I told you when I came I was a stranger

I told you when I came I was a stranger

But now another stranger seems

To want you to ignore his dreams

As though they were the burden of some other

O you've seen that man before

His golden arm dispatching cards

But now it's rusted from the elbow to the finger

And he wants to trade the game he plays for shelter

Yes he wants to trade the game he knows for shelter

Ah you hate to watch another tired man

Lay down his hand

Like he was giving up the holy game of poker

And while he talks his dreams to sleep

You notice there's a highway

That is curling up like smoke above his shoulder

It's curling just like smoke above his shoulder

You tell him to come in sit down

But something makes you turn around

The door is open you can't close your shelter

You try the handle of the road

It opens do not be afraid

It's you my love, you who are the stranger

It's you my love, you who are the stranger

Well, I've been waiting, I was sure

We'd meet between the trains we're waiting for

I think it's time to board another  
 Please understand, I never had a secret chart  
 To get me to the heart of this  
 Or any other matter  
 When he talks like this you don't know what he's after  
 When he speaks like this, you don't know what he's after

Let's meet tomorrow if you choose  
 Upon the shore, beneath the bridge  
 That they are building on some endless river  
 Then he leaves the platform  
 For the sleeping car that's warm  
 You realize, he's only advertising on more shelter  
 And it comes to you, he never was a stranger  
 And you say okay the bridge or someplace later

And then sweeping up the jokers that he left behind  
 You find he did not leave you very much  
 Not even laughter  
 Like any dealer he was watching for the card  
 That is so high and wild  
 He'll never need to deal another  
 He was just some Joseph looking for a manger  
 He was just some Joseph looking for a manger

And leaning on your window sill  
 He'll say one day you caused his will  
 To weaken with your love and warmth and shelter  
 And then taking from his wallet  
 An old schedule of trains  
 He'll say, I told you when I came I was a stranger  
 I told you when I came I was a stranger  
 I told you when I came I was a stranger  
 I told you when I came I was a stranger...

Intro:

F#m  
 |  
 D:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2---:  
 A:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2---:  
 F:----2-----2-----4-----2-----2-----2-----2-----4-----2-----:  
 C:-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----:  
 G:-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----:  
 D:--2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2---:

F#m  
 |  
 D:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0-----:  
 A:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0---:  
 F:----2-----2-----4-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0-----:  
 C:-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----0-----0-----:  
 G:-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----:  
 D:--2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2---:

Verse:

D C D  
 | . .  
 D:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0-----2-----2-----:  
 A:-----3-----3-----3-----3-----1-----1-----3-----3-----:  
 F:----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0-----2-----2-----:  
 C:-----0-----0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----0-----:  
 G:--0-----0-----3-----3-----0-----0-----0-----0-----:  
 D:-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2---:

A  
 | . . .



