

Can't Wait

Words and music by Bob Dylan

Album: Time out of Mind (1997)

alternate versions on Tell Tale Signs (2008).

Capo 4th fret (Original key Ab blues)

Em

I can't wait

A Wait for you to change your mind Em

It's late

A I'm tryin to walk the line Em

Well it's way past midnight

And there's people all around

A Some on their way up

Some on their way down

Em The air burns and I'm tryin to think straight A
C B7 Em

And I don't know how much longer I can wait

I'm your man

I've tried to recover the sweet love that we knew

You understand

That my heart can't go on beating without you

Well your loveliness has wounded me

I'm reeling from the blow

I wish I knew what it was that keeps me loving you so

I'm breathin' hard standin' at the gate

And I don't know how much longer I can wait

Skies are gray

I'm looking for anything that will bring a happy glow

Night or day

It doesn't matter where I go anymore I just go 1)

If I ever saw you comin' I don't know what I might do

I'd like to think I could control myself

But it isn't true

That's how it is

When things disintegrate

And I don't know how much longer I can wait

Bridge:

A I'm doomed to love you

Em I been rollin' through stormy weather

A I'm thinkin' of you

Bsus4 And all the places we could roam together

Em

It's mighty funny

The end of time has just begun

Oh honey, after all these years you're still the one

Well I'm strollin' through the lonely graveyard of my mind

I left my life with you

Somewhere back there along the line

I thought somehow that I would be spared this fate

I don't know how much longer I can wait

1) From Josh Meisler:

The lyric "night or day, it doesn't matter anymore where I go, I just go" is conspicuously similar to a lyric in the Grateful Dead tune 'Crazy Fingers' which goes "gone are the days we stopped to decide where we should go, we just ride", by Robert Hunter. Somewhat similar in construction and definitely in content.

2000 version

The main changes are in the pace and the mood of the playing, not really much in the arrangement.

B7add11=x21200. Or play B7-10 (x21230)

Em

Em
I can't wait

A Em
Wait for you to change my mind

It's late

A Em
I'm tryin to walk the line

Well it's way past midnight

And there's some people all around

A
Some on their way up

Some on their way down

Em A
The air burns and I'm tryin to think straight

C B7add11 Em
And I don't know how much longer I can wait

Bridge:

A
I'm doomed to love you

Em
I been rollin' through stormy weather

A
I'm thinkin' of you

Bsus4
And all the places we could roam together

Em A

Tell Tale Signs version (outtake #1)

Spoken:

If we do it in ... how about B flat?

Bbm
I can't wait

Eb Bbm Eb
Wait for you to change your mind

Bbm
I can't wait

Eb Bbm
Waitin' just making me go blind

Bbm
Did you ever lay awake at night, your face turned to the wall,
Eb
Drowning in your thoughtlessness, and cut off from it all?

Bbm
 I don't know,
 Eb
 Maybe for you it's not that late
 Bbm
 But as for me,
 F7 Bbm
 don't know how much longer I can wait

 It's got to end
 Everything about it just feels wrong
 I pretend
 Being close to her is where I don't belong
 Well, my back is to the sun because the light is too intense
 I can see what everybody in the world is up against
 I'll stay here
 Where I can feel the hand of fate
 And I don't know
 how much longer I can wait.

Skies are grey
 Life is short, and I think of her a lot
 Every day
 I can't say if I want the pain to end or not
 Well, the blindness overtaking me is beating like a drum
 I don't know where it starts or where it's coming from
 That's how it is
 When I try to concentrate
 And I don't know
 how much longer I can wait.

Bridge:
 I've been drinkin'
 Drinkin' forbidden juices
 I've been livin'
 Livin' on lame excuses.

My hands are cold
 The end of time has just begun
 I'm gettin' old
 Anything can happen now to anyone
 I walk across the floor till I wear out my shoes
 Think you've lost it all, there's always more to lose
 [I so clear]
 She can keep my head on straight
 And I don't know
 how much longer I can wait.

Tell Tale Signs version (outtake #2)

Ebm
 I can't wait
 Ab Ebm
 Wait for you to change your mind
 Ebm
 I can't wait
 Ab Ebm
 For you to walk the line
 Ebm
 You ever feel just like your brain's been bolted to the wall,
 Ab
 That you're drowning in your thoughtlessness and cut off from it all?
 Ebm
 I don't know,
 Ab
 Maybe for you it's not that late
 Cb7
 But as for me,

