

## Tell Ol' Bill

Words and music Bob Dylan

Recorded summer 2005 for the North Country soundtrack. Outtake version released on Tell Tale Signs (2008)

Capo 3rd fret

## Intro:

G . . . D . . . . D . . . G . . .

G D  
The river whispers in my ear,  
G  
I've hardly a penny to my name.  
D  
The heavens never seemed so near.  
G  
All of my body glows with flame.

## Bridge:

C G  
The tempest struggles in the air.  
C G  
and to myself alone I sing.

D  
It could sink me then and there,  
G  
I can hear the echoes ring.

## Bridge:

C G  
I try to find one smilin' face  
C G  
to drive the shadows from my head.

D  
I'm stranded in this nameless place,  
G  
lyin' restless in a heavy bed

CG . . CG | D . . . | D . . . | G . . . |

Tell me straight out if you will,  
Why must you torture me within?  
Why must you come down from your high hill?  
Throw my fate to the clouds and wind  
Far away in a silent land  
Secret thoughts are hard to bear.  
Remember me, you'll understand:  
Emotions we can never share.  
You trampled on me as you passed,  
Left the coldest kiss upon my brow.  
All my doubts and fears are gone at last,  
I've nothing more to tell you now.

I walk by tranquil lakes and streams  
As each new season's dawn awaits  
I lay awake at night with troubled dreams  
The enemy is at the gates  
Beneath the thunder-blasted trees  
the words are ringing off your tongue  
the ground is hard in times like these  
the stars are cold, the night is young,  
the rocks are bleak, the trees are bare,  
iron clouds go floating by.  
Snowflakes falling in my hair

beneath the gray and stony sky.

The evening sun is sinking low,  
the woods are dark, the town is too.  
They'll drag you down, they run the show.  
Ain't no tellin' what they'll do.

Tell ol' Bill when he comes home:  
Anything is worth a try.  
Tell him that I'm not alone,  
that the hour has come to do or die.  
All the world I would defy,  
Let me make it plain as day.  
I look at you now and I sigh,  
how could it be any other way?

The Tell Tale Signs, minor-key version

Intro:

Bbm . . . F7 . . . . F7 . . . Bbm . . .

Bbm F7  
The river whispers in my ear,  
Bbm  
I've hardly a penny to my name.  
F7  
The heavens never seemed so near.  
Bbm  
All of my body glows with flame.

Bridge:

Ebm Bbm  
The tempest struggles in the air.  
Ebm Bbm  
and to myself alone I sing.

F7  
It could sink me then and there,  
Bbm  
I can hear the echoes ring.

Bridge:

Ebm Bbm  
I try to find one smilin' face  
Ebm Bbm  
to drive the shadows from my head.

F7  
I'm stranded in this nameless place,  
Bbm  
lyin' restless in a heavy bed