

The Hostage
Tom Paxton

Capo 3rd fret

(Emin) (Emin)(Emin) (Amin)(Amin)(Amin) (C)(C) (D)(D)(D) (Emin)(Emin)
(Amin)(Amin)(Amin) (C) (D) (Emin)

I'm a guard in the gray iron prison, at (C)least I was till (Emin)now,
It was (C)never a picnic social, never a (Emin)date.
They never come in laughing, and you (C)know we never taught them (Emin)how,
It was (C)damn hard work, and you (D)wouldn't believe the (Emin)pay.

It was early in the morning, Lord, I (C)wasn't but a half a(Emin)wake,
When the (C)Cons went nuts, and took us by sur(Emin)prise.
I never was one for shaking, but I (C)found it hard to (Emin)stand,
With a (C)six-inch blade held right between my (Emin)eyes.

We could hear a siren blowing, (C)somebody yelled in (Emin)pain,
Then it (C)got so quiet, you could hear a bird walk (Emin)by.
They all had masks on their faces, (C)spoke with a voice of (Emin)Cain
"If they (C)come in shooting, you know you're bound to (Emin)die,
If they (C)come in shooting, you know you're bound to (Emin)die."

Well, I turned to a buddy named Willie, I said, (C)"Willie, it'll be all
(Emin)right,
If they (C)meant to kill us, we'd be half way down to (Emin)hell.
See, they highjack a plane in the dessert, and the (C)government screamed
and (Emin)cries,
But to (C)save some lives, they open up a prison (Emin)cell."

So the days kept coming and going, (C)tension was getting (Emin)high,
But I (C)wasn't too worried, I figured I knew the (Emin)score.
I knew they were talking to someone, I (C)knew they were willing to
(Emin)try,
So I (C)figured my freedom was a matter of a day or two (Emin)more.

Then, Jesus, early this morning, the (C)whirlybird dropped the(Emin)gas,
It (C)made me puke and it brought me to my (Emin)knees.
The bullets came like hailstones, I (C)heard the first ones (Emin)pass,
Then they (C)cut down Willie, and they got Jim Kelly and (Emin)me,
Oh, they (C)cut down Willie, and they got Jim Kelly and (Emin)me.

They come in yelling curses, like they was (C)crossing River (Emin)Rhine,
(C)Shot down every goddamned thing they (Emin)saw.
And while I lay they wounded, I took a(C)nother one in my (Emin)spine,
And (C)poor Jim Kelly took another one in his (Emin)jaw,
Oh, (C)poor Jim Kelly took another one in his (Emin)jaw.

They say we had our throats cut by a (C)band of desperate (Emin)men,
(C)Say they saved just as many of us as they (Emin)could.
Well, the governor, he should now it, but I (C)think I'll say it a(Emin)gain
That the (C)governor cut my throat, and he cut it (Emin)good.

Yeah, let them take the governor, hold (C)him for a couple of (Emin)days,
(C)See who goes in shooting to set him (Emin) free.
Hell, they'd open every jail in the country, (C)send them on their
(Emin)way,
They'd never (C)do to him what the governor done to (Emin)me,
They'd never (C)do to him what the governor done to (Emin)me.

(Emin)(Emin) (Amin)(Amin)(Amin) (C)(C) (D)(D)(D) (Emin)(Emin)
(Amin)(Amin)(Amin) (C) (D) (Emin)