

Some People's Lives (Janis Ian & Kye Fleming)

Often times the simple song is the better one, because of the way it allows the listener to 'feel' what's going on without too much other noise. Some People's Lives is a good example. Nothing else is needed besides a guitar and voice.

This exemplifies Janis Ian and Kye Fleming as the great songwriters they are and Michael's reputation as a balladeer first and foremost.

Michael could have played this song in various ways. But his picking pattern resembling a ticking clock, and the descending pitch in the melody suggesting a progression from youth through to old age adds that little extra to the overall mood of the song. This interplay between the music and lyric results in a 'sum greater than its parts.'

The song is played in a 3/4 waltz (I think?) and the 'general' tempo at 88 bpm with the beat on each count. And though there seems to be a lot of chord charts on the lyric sheets a good number of these simply involve movement of a finger or two.

I don't go in for labels; beginner, novice, advanced sort of thing. Mechanically the song is not that difficult to play, maybe a few awkward hand positions and stretches we may not be used to.

And of course my thanks to Paul Ashley who gave me the idea to do this for you.

Enjoy,

Dale Dickson

April 2019

Amended September 2020

<https://youtu.be/0917LLuQVkM>

SOME PEOPLE'S LIVES (Janis Ian & Kye Fleming)

MICHAEL JOHNSON

Tuning - Std
Capo - 2
Tempo - 88

INSTRUMENTAL ⇒ Csus2 C(add9)

Csus2 Gm7

1. Some people's lives run down like clocks

Am7 Gsus4 G Gsus2 G Gsus2

One day they stop that's all they've got

Csus2 Gm7

1. Some lives wear out like old tennis shoes

Am7 Gsus4 G Gsus2 G

No one can use, it's sad but it's true

Fmaj7(add#11) G(add9) Fmaj7(add#11) G(add9)

Didn't anybody tell them? Didn't anybody see?

Fmaj7(add#11) G(add9) Dm Dm7 G9 Dm Dm7 G9

Didn't anybody love them like you love me?

Csus2 Gm7

2. Some people's lives fade like their dreams

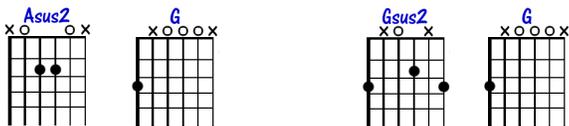
Am7 Gsus4 G Gsus2 G Gsus2

Too tired to rise too tired to sleep

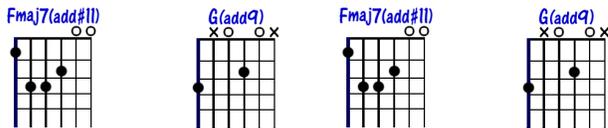
Csus2 C7(add4) Am(add9) Asus2 Am(add9)

And some people laugh when they need to cry,

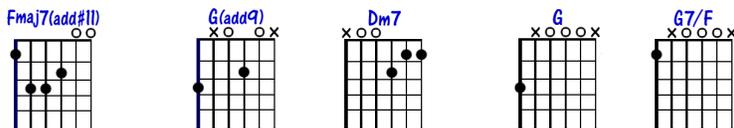
SOME PEOPLE'S LIVES - 2



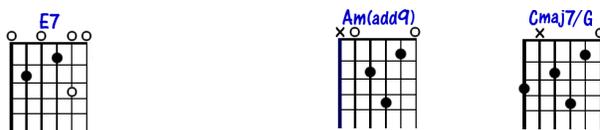
And they ne.....ver know why



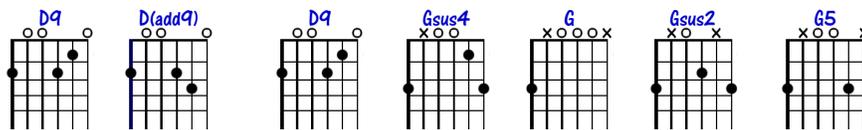
Didn't anybody tell them, didn't anybody see?



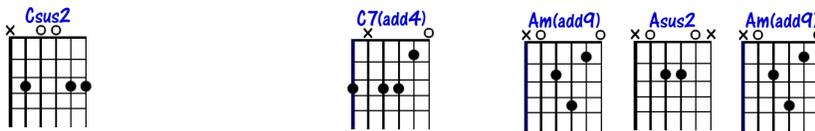
Didn't anybody love them like you love me?



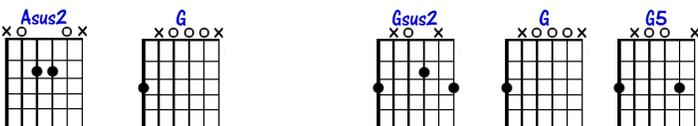
Some people ask, "if the tears have to fall,



Then why take your chances? Why both.....er at all?"

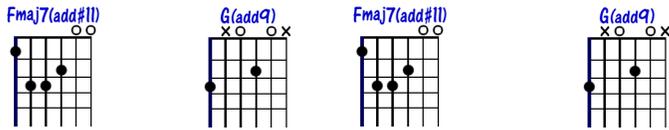


And some people's lives are as cold as their lips

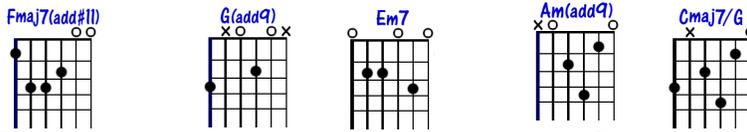


They just need to be kissed.

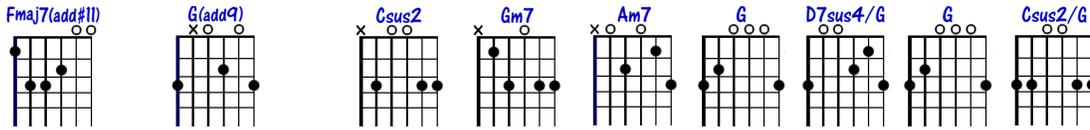
SOME PEOPLE'S LIVES - 3



Doesn't anybody tell them? Doesn't anybody see?



Doesn't anybody love them like you love me?



'Cause that's all they need

Tablature Below





Some People's Lives (EADGBE)

by Janis Ian & Kye Fleming

3/4

capo 2
tempo 88

arr. Michael Johnson
tabature by Dale Dickson

1 of 2

E B G D A E

Some peo...ple's lives run down like clocks one day they stop
Some peo...ple's lives fa.....de like their dreams too tired to rise

that's all they've got and some lives wear out like
too tir.....ed to sleep and some peo..ple laugh when they like

old tennis shoes no one can use it's need to

cry they sad but it's ne.....ver know true why

did...n't an.....y.....bo...dy tell them did...n't an.....y.....bo...dy see did...n't an.....y.....bo...dy

love them like you love me?

Go to second verse above Some peo.....ple ask if the tears have to fall

