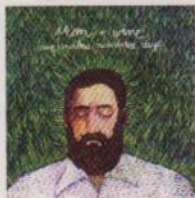


Naked As We Came

Words and Music by Sam Beam



"Naked As We Came," a wistful song by Iron and Wine, imparts the hopeful message that mortality can be made all the more bearable by making a simple pact with your life partner. It's a short song (2:33) in A B A B form with only two two-bar fingering patterns that supply all the material for the different sections: the intro, verse, chorus, instrumental interlude, and outro. And because bar 2 of the first pattern is the same as bar 2 of the second pattern, it means there are actually only three different bars to learn for the entire song. It shouldn't take you more than a couple minutes to master the guitar part!

Start by tuning your guitar to dropped D, and capo the second fret to match the key of the recording. The picking pattern is a strict alternating-thumb pattern in 16th notes. The right-hand thumb plays the fourth, fifth, and sixth strings, and the index finger always plays the third string. Although Sam Beam plays the song using just his right-hand index finger hopping between the third and second strings, most fingerpickers would opt to share the workload between the index and middle fingers.

So use the middle finger to play the second string and for the one instance of the first-string note, which appears in the Asus2 bar. The fingerpicking pattern proceeds uninterrupted, without a single break, once the song begins. There's only one held chord form, the Dadd11—the same shape as a three-finger C chord moved up two frets. The moving bass line that starts in the Em7 bar requires just one finger for each "chord change." I've supplied suggested fingering in the chord diagrams, but you can use whichever fingers are most comfortable for you.

Except for the slight ritard in the penultimate bar, there are really no other techniques at work here—no slurs, no accents, and no expressive devices. The object is to provide an even, rolling sound, so the almost-whispered vocals (including the ethereal harmony part in the chorus, sung by Sam's sister, Sarah, on the recording) can shine through. Keep it unadorned, unassuming, and naked.

—JON CHAPPELL

Dropped-D tuning: $\text{D} \text{ A} \text{ D} \text{ G} \text{ B} \text{ E}$
Capo II

Intro

Chord diagrams for the Intro section:

- Dadd11**: 03201x
- Em7**: 1x000x
- Em7/F#**: 3x000x
- Em7/B**: x1000x
- Em7/A**: x0000x
- Dadd11**: 03201x

Verse

Chord diagrams for the Verse section:

- Em7**
- Em7/F#**
- Em7/B**
- Dm7/A**
- Dadd11**
- Em7**
- Em7/F#**
- Em7/B**
- Em7/A**

1. She says, "Wake up, it's no use pre-tend-ing"

Dadd11 **Em7** **Em7/F#** **Em7/B** **Em7/A** **Dadd11**

I'll keep steal - ing, breath - ing her — Birds are leav - ing

Em7 **Em7/F#** **Em7/B** **Em7/A** **Dadd11** **Em7** **Em7/F#** **Em7/B** **Em7/A**

o - ver au - tumn's end - ing One of us will die in - side these

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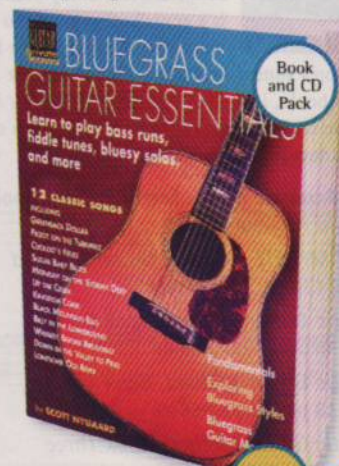
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Chorus

Asus2 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A Asus2

arms Eyes wide o - pen

(harmony voice sings small notes)

Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A Asus2 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A

na - ked as we came One will spread our

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To Coda ⊕

Asus2 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A Dadd11

ash - es 'round the yard

19

Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A Dadd11 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A

22

⊕ Coda

Dadd11 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A

25

Dadd11 Em7 Em7/F# Em7/B Em7/A Dadd11

27

rit. (3rd time) play three times

Dadd11 Em7
1. She says, "Wake up, it's no use pretending"

Dadd11 Em7
I'll keep stealing, breathing her

Dadd11 Em7
Birds are leaving over autumn's ending

Dadd11 Em7 Asus2
One of us will die inside these arms

Chorus

Em7 Asus2
Eyes wide open,

Em7 Asus2
Naked as we came

Em7 Asus2
One will spread our

Em7 Dadd11
Ashes 'round the yard

Dadd11 Em7
2. She says, "If I leave before you, darling

Dadd11 Em7
Don't you waste me in the ground"

Dadd11 Em7
I lay smiling like our sleeping children

Dadd11 Em7
One of us will die inside these arms

Repeat Chorus and end