

Cassidy

Words by John Perry Barlow, music by Bob Weir



"Cassidy" was first recorded on *Ace* (1972), a Weir solo album on which he's backed by his Grateful Dead band mates. It became a live staple and is now played regularly by RatDog.

The song pays tribute to '60s counterculture icon Neal Cassidy as well as a baby girl named Cassidy who was born while Weir was writing the music. The original version is in a now-forgotten open tuning, but Weir reworked it in standard tuning in the late '70s, and that's how he's played it ever since.

This transcription is based on the version on *Reckoning*, the Dead's live acoustic album from 1981, but it also incorporates chordal ideas that Weir demonstrated in the interview. In any given run-through of "Cassidy," he may voice these chords differently or embellish them with slides, hammer-ons, and pull-offs. But his tendency is to favor two- or three-note chords up the neck; playing with pick and fingers allows him to skip over strings easily, as in bars 3–6. In the solo, Weir begins with a harmonized version of the melody and hands off to Garcia on the F#m in bar 73. After the final verse, the band stretches into a loose modal improvisation in E that leads eventually to a partial recap of the bridge.

—JEFFREY PEPPER RODGERS

Intro

Bob Weir **E**

Riff 1

5 0 0 9 9 9 7 6 7 6 9 9 9 9 9 11

0 9 9 9 9 11

Jerry Garcia

Riff 1A

4 2 1 2 1 4 2 5 3 2 3 2 2 4

2 4 2

End Riff 1

End Riff 1A

Verse

E **A**

5

1. I have seen where the wolf has slept by the silver stream
2. See additional lyrics.

Riff 2

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 0

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 9 7 7 7 9 7 7 7 7

0

End Riff 2

E **A**

with Riff 2, simile

9

I can tell by the mark he left you were in his dream

Em 042100 4 fr.

Am x0x230

Em 042100 4 fr.

13

Ah child of count - less trees Ah child of bound - less

Am x0x230 F#m 134111 A x231xx 5 fr.

F#m 134111 A x231xx 5 fr.

1. E 021400 6 fr. 2. E 021400 6 fr. D x1333x 5 fr. A x231xx 5 fr. E5 013400 7 fr.

A x231xx 5 fr. E5 013400 7 fr. A x231xx 5 fr. E 023100

B5 13xxxx 7 fr. F#m(add4) x4210x 6 fr. E5 013400 7 fr. B5 13xxxx 7 fr. F#m(add4) x4210x 6 fr. E5 013400 7 fr. B5 13xxxx 7 fr.

F#m(add4) x4210x 6 fr. E5 013400 7 fr. B5 13xxxx 7 fr. A5 13xxxx 5 fr. E To Coda ⊕ with Riffs 1 & 1A, simile

Guitar Solo

Bob Weir A A E

Bob Weir

63

A Em Am

69

Em Am F#m Jerry Garcia

75

A F#m A

80

E

3. Fare thee well

Verse

E A E

with Riff 2, two times, simile

85 now let your life pro-ceed by its own de-sign— Nothing to tell now let yo

90 words be yours I'm done with mine Fare thee well

Ad-Lib Jam

E 30

D.S. al Coda

Coda

E5

123

1. **E** I have seen where the wolf has slept by the silver stream **A**
E I can tell by the mark he left you were in his dream **A**
E5 **Am** **E5** **Am**
 Ah child of countless trees, ah child of boundless seas
F#m **A**
 What you are, and what you're meant to be
F#m **A**
 Speaks his name though you were born to me
E
 Born to me, Cassidy

2. **E** Lost now on the country miles in his Cadillac **A**
E I can tell by the way you smile he is rolling back **A**
E5 **Am** **E5** **Am**
 Come wash the nighttime clean, come grow the scorched ground green
F#m **A**
 Blow the horn, tap the tambourine
F#m **A**
 Close the gap on the dark years in between
E
 You and me, Cassidy

Bridge

A **E5** **A** **E5**
 Quick beats in an icy heart, a catch colt draws a coffin cart
A **E5** **B5**
 There he goes and now here she starts, hear her cry
F#m(add4) **E5**
B5 **F#m(add4)** **E5**
 Flight of the seabirds
B5 **F#m(add4)** **E5**
 Scattered like lost words
B5 **A5** **E**
 Wheel to the storm and fly

3. **E** Fare thee well now, let your life proceed by its own design **A**
E **A**
 Nothing to tell now, let the words be yours, I'm done with mine
E **A**
 Fare thee well now, let your life proceed by its own design
E **A**
 Nothing to tell now, let the words be yours, I'm done with mine

Repeat second half of Bridge

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—Premier Guitar Magazine, January '08

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