

**The Answer**

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by Richie Sambora / Mark Foster  
from the album "Stranger In This Town" (1990)  
Transcribed by Matthew M. Holladay ([holladay@engin.umich.edu](mailto:holladay@engin.umich.edu))

Hi everybody,

I haven't tabbed anything in awhile, so I thought I might try to get started again with this one. This version is how I try to play this song while fingerpicking. It is by no means gospel, but I think it sounds pretty good. I think there are actually 2 or more guitars playing, or possibly a 12-string on this one... This is as close as I can get with one person playing. Hope you like it.

Richie Sambora - 'The Answer'

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      A              F#7              Bm              E
e- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-1--1--0-|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-3-3-3--2h3p2-0--3-----0-|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-2-----1--1-|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----0-----2-|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----2-----2-|
E- |-----3-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-|

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slowly strum last chord

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      A              F#7              Bm              E
e- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-1vvv--0-|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-3-3-3--2-0--3-----|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-2-----|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----0-----|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----2-----2-|
E- |-----3-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-|

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      A              F#7              Bm              E
e- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-3-3-3--2h3p2-0-----|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-----2-1-|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----2-----2-|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----2-----2-|
E- |-----3-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-|

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e- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----3vv--|
B- |-----2--2--2-----2-----3--3-----5vv-----3)---|
G- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2vv-|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----4--4--4--4-----2-----2-|
A- |-----0-----0-----0-----0-----4-----4-----0-|
E- |-----0--2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-|

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e- |-----2-----2-----0-----2-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----3-----3-----0-----3-----2-----2-----2-|
G- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|
D- |-----0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|
A- |-----0-----4-----2-----2-----0-----2-----2-|
E- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|

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e- |-----2-2-2-2--0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----3-3-3-3-----0--3--2--2--2--2--2-----2-|
G- |-----2-----2-----1--2--2--2--2--2--2--4-|
D- |-----0-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|
A- |-----0-----4-----2-----2-----0-----2-----2-|
E- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|

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e- |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----3-----3-----3-----3-----2-----2-----4-|
G- |-----2vvvv-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-|
D- |-----0-----0-----4--0-----2vvvv-----2-----2-|
A- |-----0-----0-----0-----0-----2-----2-----2-|
E- |-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-|

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e- |-----|
B- |-----3----- (5)-----|
G- |---2vvvv---2-----4-----|
D- |--0-----0-----4--0-----2-----|
A- |-----|
E- |-----0-----|

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           A           F#7           Bm           E
e- |-----2-----2-----0-----1--1--0-----|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-3-3-3---2h3p2-0---3-----0-----|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-2-----1--1-----|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----0-----2-----|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----2-----|
E- |-----3-----2----- (0)-----0-----|

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slowly strum last chord

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           A           F#7           Bm           E
e- |-----2-----2-----0-1vvv-0-----|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-3-3-3---2-0---3-----|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-2-----|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----0-----|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----|
E- |-----3-----2-----0-----|

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           A           F#7           Dm           E
e- |-----2-----2-----3-3-3-3---2h3p2-0-----|
B- |-----2--2--2--0-----2-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-----2-1-----|
G- |-----2--2--2--2--3-----3-----4-4-4-4-----2-----2-1-----|
D- |-----2--2--2--2--2--2-----2-----4-4-4-4-----2-----2-2-----|
A- |-----0-----4-----4-2-----2-0-----2-----|
E- |-----3-----2-----0-----|

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e- |-----|
B- |-----2--2-----3--3-----|
G- |-----2-----2-----|
D- |-----2--2---2--2---4--4--4--4-----|
A- |-----0-----0-----|
E- |--0--2-----|

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Played over a distorted  
A5 power chord.

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e- |-----|
B- |-----2--2-----3--3-----|
G- |-----2-----2-----|
D- |-----2--2---2--2---4--4--4--4-----|
A- |--0-----0-----|
E- |-----|

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Played over a distorted  
A5 power chord.

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e- |-----0---0-----|
B- |-----4--4-----0-----0-----|
G- |-----4-----1--1--1--1-----|
D- |-----4--4---4--4-----|
A- |--2-----2-----|
E- |-----|

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Played over a distorted  
B5 power chord.

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e- |-----0---4-(2)--(0)-|
B- |-----4--4-----0-----|
G- |-----4-----1-----|
D- |-----4--4---4--4-----|
A- |--2-----2-----|
E- |-----|

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Played over a distorted  
B5 power chord.

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e- |-----0-----2-----|
B- |-----0-----0-----4-----4-----4-----|
G- |-----1-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
D- |-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----7-----|

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e- |-----4-----4-----2-----|
B- |-----5-----5-----2-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
G- |-----3-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
D- |-----4-----|
A- |-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----0-----7-----|

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e- |-----|
B- |-----|
G- |-----1-----3-----1-----3vvvvv-----|
D- |-----2-----2-----4-----4-----2-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----2-----2-----4-----4-----2-----2-----4-----|
E- |-----0-----0-----2-----2-----0-----0-----2-----2-----|

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e- |-----4-----2-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----4-----5-----5-----5-----4h5p4-----5-----7-----8s(2)-----|
G- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----5-----4-----4-----4-----6-----4-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----4-----7-----2-----|

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e- |-----4-----0-----2-----3-----2-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----4-----5-----5-----5-----5-----4-----0-----2-----|
G- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----5-----4-----4-----4-----6-----4-----3-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----4-----7-----s2-----|

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e- |-----4-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----4-----5-----5-----5-----5-----4-----|
G- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----5-----4-----4-----4-----6-----4s-----0-----3-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6-----4-----4-----4-----|
E- |-----4-----7-----2-----2-----|

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e- |-----4-----0-----2-----3-----2-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----4-----5-----5-----5-----5-----4-----0-----2-----|
G- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----5-----4-----4-----4-----6-----4-----3-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----4-----7-----s2-----|

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e- |-----0-----0-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----0-----0-----|
G- |-----4-----1-----1-----1-----1-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----2-----|
E- |-----|

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Played over a distorted  
B5 power chord.

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e- |-----|
B- |-----4-----4-----|
G- |-----4-----4-----|
D- |-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----2-----h4vv-----2-----|
E- |-----|

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Played over a distorted  
B5 power chord.

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e- |-----0-----2-----|
B- |-----0-----0-----4-----4-----4-----|
G- |-----1-----1-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
D- |-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----6-----7-----|

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e- |-----4-----4-----2-----|
B- |-----5-----5-----2-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
G- |-----3-----3-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
D- |-----4-----|
A- |-----6-----4-----|
E- |-----0-----7-----|

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e- |-----0-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----0-----2-----0-----2-----|
G- |-----1-----1-----3-----3-----1-----3vvvvv-3-----|
D- |-----2-----4-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----4-----2-----4-----|
E- |-----0-----2-----0-----0-2-----|

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e- |-----4-----|
B- |-----4-4-4-4-2-----4-----|
G- |-----4-4-4-4-4-----5-----|
D- |-----4-4-4-4-4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6s(2)-----|
E- |-----4-----|

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e- |-----0-----2-----2-----|
B- |-----0-----2-----0-----2-----|
G- |-----1-----1-----3-----3-----1-----3vvvvv-3-----|
D- |-----2-----4-----2-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----4-----2-----4-----|
E- |-----0-----2-----0-----0-2-----|

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E5 power chords played under both of these

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e- |-----4-----2-2-----|
B- |-----4-4-4-4-2-----4-----5-5-5-5-4h5p4-----5-7-8s(2)-2-2-----|
G- |-----4-4-4-4-4-----5-----4-4-4-4-6-4-----3-4-----|
D- |-----4-4-4-4-4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----|
A- |-----2-----0-----6-----6-4-----4-----2-----|
E- |-----4-----7-----2-----|

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Strum the last chord slowly, and a distorted B5 chord is played under it as everything fades out.

That should be everything. This has taken too long as is, so I'm not going to include the words, and I'm also not going to put in the rest of the chords over the top of the bars. If anyone else is feeling adventurous enough to do it, go right ahead. Enjoy this one.

Questions, comments, additions, and corrections are welcome.

The Answer

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The lightning flashed as angels  
Rode fiery chargers through the clouds  
That answer scared me into tears  
And all the grownups laughed out loud

Now the years roll on, tired voices have all gone  
Now they ride their thunder through the heavens

There's a world in every drop of rain  
Embracing oceans sweep us home again

Come along with me, come along with me  
Seek the truth, you shall not find another lie

They say for every living thing  
There's a guide up in the sky  
That helps you pass from world to world  
So you never really die

Then with scythe and cloak  
Death comes waltzing to your side  
As the visions pass you ask  
If there was meaning to your life

As you strain to hear the answer, spirits sing, and devils fiddle  
As he bends to whisper in your hear, he leaves you one more riddle

Oh, the answer lies beyond the pain  
All the questions in our minds, we surely ask in vain

Come along with me, come along with me  
Seek the truth, and you shall find another life

And now my life is like a storm  
Growing stronger every day  
Like the unrelenting wind  
That comes to blow our lives away

So I live each day like I know it's my last  
If there is no future there must be no past  
Now I know the answers never meant a thing  
And with each instant that I breathe  
I feel the joy that life can bring

Come along with me, come along with me  
Seek the truth, you shall not find another lie

Come along with me, come along with me  
Seek the truth, you shall not find another lie