It's [C] knowing that your [Em] door is always [C] open And your [Em] path is free to [Dm] walk That makes me tend to leave my sleeping bag Rolled up and [G] stashed behind your [C] couch [Em] [C] [Em]

And it's [C] knowing I'm not [Em] shackled by for-[C]gotten words and [Em] bonds And [C] ink stains that have [Em] dried if on some [Dm] lines That keeps you in the back-roads by the rivers of my memory that keeps you ever [G] gentle on my [C] mind [Em] [C] [Em]

It's not [C] clinging to the [Em] rocks and ivy
[C] Planted on the [Em] columns now that [Dm] binds me
Or something that somebody said
Because they thought we [G] fit together [C] walking [Em] [C] [Em]

It's just [C] knowing that the [Em] world
Will not be [C] cursing Or for-[Em]giving
when I [C] walk along some [Em] railroad track and [Dm] find
That you are moving on the back-roads by the rivers of my memory
And for hours you're just [G] gentle on my [C] mind [Em] [C] [Em]

Well, I [C] dip my cup of [Em] soup, back
From the [C] gurgling cracklin' [Em] cauldron in some [Dm] train yard,
My beard a roughning coal pile and a dirty hat pulled low
A-[G]cross my [C] face [Em] [C] [Em]
Through [C] cupped hands 'round a [Em] tin can
I pre-[C] tend I hold you [Em] to my breast and [Dm] find,
That you're waving from the backroads by the rivers of my memory,
Ever smilin' ever [G] gentle on my [C] mind...[Dm]
Ever smilin' ever [G] gentle on my [C] mind.