

# Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out – Eric Clapton - Best

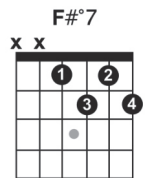
Jul 25, 2025, 8:51 AM

Key: C Notes: [C - - - A7] = rundown (see insert).

[Intro]

C - E7 - A7  
Dm - A7 - Dm  
F - F#°7 - [C - - - A7]  
D7 - G7

[Rundown]  
C - - - - A7  
A7  
e |-----0--|  
B |-----2--|  
G |-----0--|  
D |-----2--|  
A |--3-2-1-0--|  
E |-----|



[Verse 1]

C E7 A7  
I once lived the life of a millionaire  
Dm A7 Dm  
Spent all my money, didn't have any care  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
Took all my friends out for a mighty good time  
D7 G7  
We bought bootleg liquor, champagne, and wine  
C E7 A7  
Then I began to fall so low  
Dm A7 Dm  
Lost all my good friends, had nowhere to go  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
I get my hands on a dollar again  
D7 G7  
I'm gonna hang on to it till that eagle grins

[Chorus]

C E7 A7  
Cause nobody knows you  
Dm A7 Dm  
When you're down and out  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
In your pocket, not one penny  
D7 G7  
And as for friends, you don't have any

[Verse 2]

C E7 A7  
When you get back up on your feet again  
Dm A7 Dm  
Everybody wants to be your long lost friend  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
Said its strange without any doubt  
D7 G7  
Nobody knows you when you're down and out

[Solo] [2x]

C - E7 - A7  
Dm - A7 - Dm  
F - F#°7 - [C - - - A7]  
D7 - G7

[Chorus]

C E7 A7  
Cause nobody knows you  
Dm A7 Dm  
When you're down and out  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
In your pocket, not one penny  
D7 G7  
And as for friends, you don't have any

[Verse 3]

C E7 A7  
When you get back up on your feet again  
Dm A7 Dm  
Everybody wants to be your long lost friend  
F F#°7 [C - - - A7]  
Said its strange without any doubt  
D7  
Nobody knows you [Nobody knows you]  
G7  
Nobody knows you [Nobody knows you]  
D7 G7  
Nobody knows you when you're down and out

[Outro]

B7 C7  
e |-----2--x--|  
B |--6^--4--0--x--|  
G |-----5-3-----2--3--|  
D |-----5-4-3--/2--1--2--|  
A |-----2--3--|  
E |-----x--x--|

First published in 1923, the first known recording did not appear until 1927. Piedmont blues musician Bobby Leecan, who recorded with various ensembles, such as the South Street Trio, Dixie Jazzers Washboard Band, and Fats Waller's Six Hot Babies, recorded an early rendition of the song as Blind Bobby Baker, with his vocal and finger picking-style guitar. His version, recorded in New York around June 1927, was titled "Nobody Needs You When You're Down and Out" and used some different lyrics with emphasis on the hard times. This was taken from Eric Clapton's MTV Unplugged recording in 1992.