

# Lights of Cheyenne – James McMurtry

CAPO on the second fret

## VERSE 1

C9 G C9 G  
Look off down the highway at the glittering lights  
C9 G E D4  
Like windshield glass on the shoulder tonight  
C9 D4 Em7  
As the diesels come grinding on up from the plains  
G C9 D4  
All bunched up like pearls on a string  
G C9 G  
And I guess time don't mean nothin' Not nothin' at all  
C9 G Em7 D4  
And out on the horizon the broken stars fall  
C9 D4 Em7  
Old broken stars they fall down on the land  
G C9 D4 G  
And get mixed together with the lights of Cheyenne

## VERSE 2

C9 G C9 G  
Well I've been up all night and I'm down on my back  
C9 G Em7 D4  
Workin' the counter to take up the slack  
C9 D4 Em7  
Cause the money tree's light and the whiskey stream's low  
G C9 D4  
You ain't worked a week since July  
G C9 G  
You say the gravel pit's hiring After the first  
C9 G Em7 D4  
But you don't have the nature for that kind of work  
C9 D4 Em7  
You might get hired on But you won't make a hand  
G C9 D4 G  
And I'll still be here lookin' at the lights of Cheyenne

## CHORUS

D4  
You stand in the sky  
C9 G  
with your feet on the ground  
D4 C9  
Never suspectin' a thing  
D4  
But if the sky were to  
C9 G  
move you might never be found  
Em7 G/f# C9  
Never be heard from again

## VERSE 3

C9 G C9 G  
We go on good behavior when our youngest comes home  
C9 G Em7 D4  
She comes up from Boulder but she never stays long  
C9 D4 Em7

And that oldest still fights me like she was 18

G C9 D4  
Stopped in for a 6-pack awhile ago  
G C9 G

And she's got a cowboy problem And this last one's a sight

C9 G Em7 D4  
All dressed up like Gunsmoke for Saturday night  
C9 D4 Em7  
And they were off to the bars for lack of a plan  
G C9 D4 G  
Racing the stars to the lights of Cheyenne

(little solo part goes here)

## VERSE 4

C9 G C9 G  
And you've kept all that meanness inside you so long  
C9 G Em7 D4  
You'd fight with a fence post if it looked at your wrong  
C9 D4 Em7  
Well the post won't hit back, and it won't call the law  
G C9 D4  
I look at your right, or I don't look at all  
G C9 G  
Now take a crumpled up soft pack and give it a shake  
C9 G Em7 D4  
Out by the dumpster on a cigarette break  
C9 D4 Em7  
With one eye swelled up from the back of your hand  
G C9 D4 G  
And the other eye fixed on the lights of Cheyenne

- chorus -

## VERSE 5

C9 G C9 G  
Now there's antelope grazing in range of my gun  
C9 G Em7 D4  
Come opening weekend you won't see a one  
C9 D4 Em7  
They'll vanish like ghosts 'cause somehow they know  
G C9 D4  
But now they're up to the fence in the early dawn  
G C9 G  
And it's warming up nicely for this time of year  
C9 G Em7 D4  
The creeks are still frozen but the roads are all clear  
C9 D4 Em7  
And I don't have it in me to make one more stand  
G C9 D4 G  
Though I never much cared for the lights of Cheyenne