

# Rent

Words and Music by  
JONATHAN LARSON

## Bright Rock

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The guitar chord diagrams are as follows:

- Chord 1:** Eb5 (E-flat fifth)
- Chord 2:** F5 (F fifth)
- Chord 3:** C5 (C fifth, 3fr)
- Chord 4:** Eb5 (E-flat fifth)
- Chord 5:** F5 (F fifth)
- Chord 6:** C5 (C fifth, 3fr)
- Chord 7:** Eb5 (E-flat fifth)
- Chord 8:** F5 (F fifth)
- Chord 9:** C5 (C fifth, 3fr)
- Chord 10:** C5 (C fifth, 3fr)

The vocal line begins with the lyrics: "How do you document real life when real life's". The piano accompaniment for the vocal section is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.



get - ting more\_\_ like fic - tion each day? \_\_\_\_\_



Head lines, bread lines blow my mind, \_ and now\_\_ this dead - line; e -



vic - tion or pay. \_\_\_\_\_



Rent! How do you write a song\_\_ when the  
 How do you start a fire\_\_ when there's  
 How do you stay on your feet when on

chords sound wrong though they once sound - ed, right and rare?  
 noth - ing to burn street and it feels like some - thing's stuck in your  
 ev - 'ry street it's "trick or treat" and to - night it's trick?

D5

flue? But the notes are so - ur, Where is the pow er  
 Wel - come back to town; oh, I should lie down.

C5

you once hand to ig nite the air? And we're  
 can't feel your feet and they're turn - ing blue? You  
 Ev - 'ry-thing's brown and oh, oh, I feel sick.

D5

E5

hun - gry and fro - zen. Some life post that we've cho sen.  
 light up a mean blaze with post - ers and screen plays. } How we gon - na  
 Where is he? Get - ting diz - zy.

F

C

Gm

Gm#5

Gm6 Gm#5 Gm Gm#5 Gm6 Gm#5

pay? How we gon na pay?

Gm Gm#5 Gm6 Gm#5 E7 F

How we gon - na pay last year's

C To Coda Eb5 F5

rent? Spoken: We light candles.

C5 Eb5 F5 C5

2

C7



Spoken: Don't scream, Maureen. It's me, Joanne, your substitute

N.C.

C7



production manager. Hey, hey, hey! Did you eat? Sung: Don't change the

N.C.

sub ject, Mau-reen. But dar - ling, you have n't eat en all day. You

F7



won't throw up, you won't throw up. Spoken: The digital delay didn't blow

C7

N.C.



up exactly. There may have been one teeny, tiny spark.

N.C.



D.S. al Coda

You're not calling Mark!

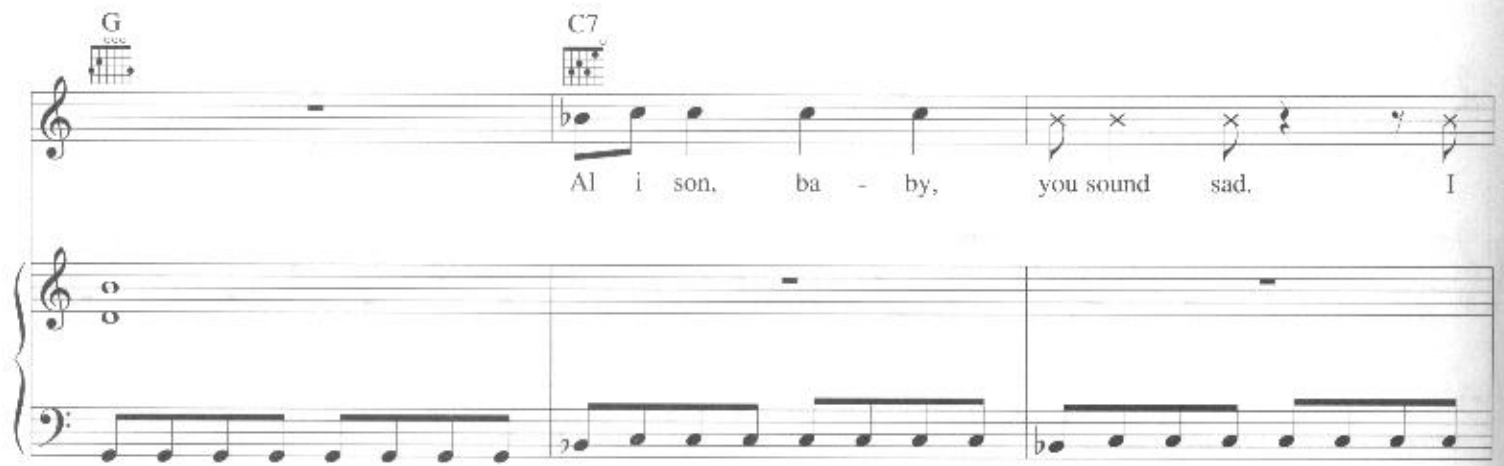
CODA Am





G  C7 

Al i son, ba - by, you sound sad, I



N.C.  F7 

don't be - lieve those two af - ter ev - 'ry - thing I've done. Ev er since our wed - ding, I'm



C7  N.C. 

dirt. They'll see; I can help them all out in the long run.



Am  Em7  C  Am 

The mu - sic ig - nites to - night with pas - sion - ate fire. Mau





reen, I'm not a the-a-ter per-son. The nar - ra - tion crack - les and pops with in



cen - di - ar - y wit. Could nev - er be a the-a-ter per son. Zoom in as they burn



the past to the ground, and I'm feel-ing the heat of the fu - ture's glow



N.C.

Spoken: Hello, hello? Maureen? Your equipment won't work? Okay,



alright, I'll go! *Sung:* How do you leave the past — be — hind

D

when it keeps find - ing ways — to get to your heart?

E

It reach - es way down deep and tears you in -

D

- side out 'til you're torn — a — part. — Rent!

E F#

D

How can — you con - nect in an age where strang - ers, land - lords,

E

lov - ers, your own blood cells be tray? — What

D

binds the fab - ric to geth - er when the rag - ing, shift - ing

E F#

winds of change keep rip - ping — a — way. — Draw a

G D G

line in the sand and then — make a stand. Use your cam-era to spar, — use —

D G D

— your gui - tar. When they act tough, you call their bluff.

Am Am#5 Am6 Am#5 Am Am#5

We're not gon - na pay. — We're not gon - na

Am6 Am#5 Am Am#5 Am6 Am#5

pay. — We're not — gon - na pay —

Fmaj7 G D F G

last year's rent, this year's

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line starts with a half note 'last' on F4, a quarter note 'year's' on G4, a quarter note 'rent,' on A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note 'this' on F4, and a quarter note 'year's' on G4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

D F G D

rent, next year's rent,

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter note 'rent,' on A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note 'next' on F4, a quarter note 'year's' on G4, and a quarter note 'rent,' on A4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

F G D F G

rent rent rent rent rent. We're not gon - na pay

The third system features a vocal line with a melisma. The vocal line has a quarter note 'rent' on F4, a quarter note 'rent' on G4, a quarter note 'rent' on A4, a quarter note 'rent' on A4, a quarter note 'rent.' on A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note 'We're' on F4, a quarter note 'not' on G4, a quarter note 'gon - na' on A4, and a quarter note 'pay' on A4. The piano accompaniment includes chords and a bass line.

D Bb C D

rent 'cause ev - 'ry - thing is rent.

*slowly*

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a quarter note 'rent' on A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note ''cause' on Bb4, a quarter note 'ev - 'ry - thing' on C5, a quarter note 'is' on D5, and a quarter note 'rent.' on D5. The piano accompaniment includes chords and a bass line. The word 'slowly' is written below the piano part. The system ends with a double bar line.