# When I First Stepped in a Canoe

Words and music by Shelley Posen 2004

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**< WE LOVE KEY CHANGES! >**

**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [G] / [G]**

When I **[G]** first stepped in a canoe

I **[C]** made a fatal mis-**[G]**take

I **[C]** planted my heel to one **[G]** side of the keel

And **[A7]** pitched head-first in the **[D]** lake

I **[G]** had no reason to think

It would **[C]** tip before you could **[G]** blink

Or **[C]** take all your talents for **[G]** keeping your balance

Or **[A7]** else you’d land in the **[D]** drink

Which is **[G]** what I proceeded to do

When I **[C]** first stepped **[D]** in a ca-**[G]**noe

**[C] / [G] / [D7] / [G] / [G]**

When I **[G]** first soloed in a canoe

It **[C]** took me a while to **[G]** learn

That you **[C]** sit in the bow

Though I **[G]** didn’t know how

You could **[A7]** tell the damn thing from the **[D]** stern

I **[G]** paddled the rest of the day

In **[C]** circles and growing dis-**[G]**may

I **[C]** hadn’t a clue that to **[G]** steer the thing true

Your **[A7]** stroke had to end with a **[D]↓** ‘J’

**[D]↓** Which **[G]** no-one had taught me to do

When I **[C]** first soloed **[D]** in a ca-**[G]**noe

**[C] / [G] / [D7] / [G] / [G]**

When I **[G]** first kneel in a canoe

I **[C]** paddle with languorous **[G]** grace

But it’s **[C]** all a mirage when you **[G]** have to portage

With **[A7]** blackflies all over your **[D]** face

As I **[G]** stagger off into the trees

At **[C]** least I’m off of my **[G]** knees

Which I **[C]** haven’t quite felt since the **[G]** minute I knelt

And the **[A7]** ribs turned the caps into **[D]** cheese

Which is **[G]** what they instantly do

When I **[C]** first kneel **[D]** in a ca-**[G]↓**noe **< key change > [E7]** **↓ NOW…**

The **[A]** best thing about a canoe

May **[D]** be just what it is **[A]** not

Like **[D]** loud and aggressive

And **[A]** big and excessive like a **[B7]** ski boat

Or a millionaire’s **[E7]** yacht

It’s at **[A]** home on stream, lake, or chute

It **[D]** won’t harm a beaver or **[A]** coot

It **[D]** may take some labour but **[A]** like a good neighbour

It **[B7]** won’t make noise or pol-**[E7]**lute

So if **[A]** asked if you want a Sea-Doo

Say **[D]↓** “Thanks, but I’d **[E7]↓** rather can-**[A]**oe”

Now I **[D]↓** have to skedaddle

God, I **[A]↓** wish these had a saddle

And **[E7]** paddle off in my can-**[A]↓**oe **[A]↓**

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