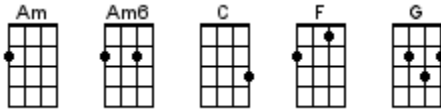


# Black Day In July

Gordon Lightfoot 1968



**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /**

**[Am] / [Am] / [Am] / [Am] /**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**  
**[Am]** Motor City **[G]** madness has **[C]** touched the country-**[Am]**side **[Am]**  
And **[F]** through the smoke and **[Am]** cinders, you can **[F]** hear it far and **[Am]** wide  
The **[F]** doors are quickly **[Am]** bolted and the **[F]** children locked in-**[Am]**side **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**  
And the **[Am]** soul of Motor **[G]** City is **[C]** bared across the **[Am]** land **[Am]**  
As the **[F]** book of law and **[Am]** order, is **[F]** taken in the **[Am]** hands  
Of the **[F]** sons of the **[Am]** fathers, who were **[F]** carried to this **[Am]** land **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**  
In the **[Am]** streets of Motor **[G]** City there's a **[C]** deadly silent **[Am]** sound **[Am]**  
And the **[F]** body of a **[Am]** dead youth, lies **[F]** stretched upon the **[Am]** ground  
Up-**[F]**on the filthy **[Am]** pavement, no **[F]** reason can be **[Am]** found **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**  
**[Am]** Motor City **[G]** madness has **[C]** touched the country-**[Am]**side **[Am]**  
And the **[F]** people rise in **[Am]** anger and the **[F]** streets begin to **[Am]** fill  
And there's **[F]** gunfire from the **[Am]** rooftops  
And the **[F]** blood begins to **[Am]** spill **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am] / [Am] / [Am]**

## **BRIDGE:**

In the **[Am]** mansion of the **[F]** governor  
There's **[Am6]** nothing that is **[F]** known for sure  
The **[Am]** telephone is **[F]** ringing and the **[Am6]** pendulum is **[F]** swinging  
And they **[Am]** wonder how it **[F]** happened  
When they **[Am6]** really know the **[F]** reason  
And it **[Am]** wasn't just the **[F]** temperature  
And it **[Am6]** wasn't just the **[F]** season **[F]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am] / [Am] /**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**  
**[Am]** Motor City's **[G]** burning and the **[C]** flames are running **[Am]** wild **[Am]**  
They re-**[F]**lect upon the **[Am]** waters of the **[F]** river and the **[Am]** lake  
And **[F]** everyone is **[Am]** listening and **[F]** everyone's a-**[Am]**wake **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**

The **[Am]** printing press is **[G]** turning and the **[C]** news is quickly **[Am]** flashed **[Am]**  
And you **[F]** read your morning **[Am]** paper, and you **[F]** sip your cup of **[Am]** tea  
And you **[F]** wonder just in **[Am]** passing, is it **[F]** him or is it **[Am]** me? **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]** / **[Am]** / **[Am]**

**BRIDGE:**

In the **[Am]** office of the **[F]** President, the **[Am6]** deed is done the **[F]** troops are sent  
There's **[Am]** really not much **[F]** choice you see, it **[Am6]** looks to us like **[F]** anarchy  
And **[Am]** then the tanks go **[F]** rolling in to **[Am6]** patch things up as **[F]** best they can  
There **[Am]** is no time to **[F]** hesitate  
The **[Am6]** speech is made the **[F]** dues can wait **[F]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]** / **[Am]** /

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**

The **[Am]** streets of Motor **[G]** City now are **[C]** quiet and se-**[Am]**rene **[Am]**  
But the **[F]** shapes of gutted **[Am]** buildings strike **[F]** terror to the **[Am]** heart  
And you **[F]** say "How did it **[Am]** happen?" and you **[F]** say "How did it **[Am]** start?"  
Why **[F]** can't we all be **[Am]** brothers? Why **[F]** can't we live in **[Am]** peace?"  
But the **[F]** hands of the **[Am]** have-nots, keep **[F]** falling out of **[Am]** reach **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]** / **[Am]** /

**[Am]** Black day in Ju-**[G]**ly **[G]**

**[Am]** Motor City **[G]** madness has **[C]** touched the country-**[Am]**side **[Am]**  
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**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]**  
**[G]** Black day in Ju-**[Am]**ly **[Am]** / **[Am]**↓

