

Raymond

By Bob Borta ©2023

Key of C (Capo 2nd Fret for Key of D)

C **Em**
1. North side of Chicago, in the age of Al Capone,
F **C**
Ed and Verna Borta brought their little baby home.
C **Em**
A bungalow on Damen, they had so much to do,
F **C** **F** **C**
And they named their new son Raymond, back in nineteen twenty-two.

C **Em**
2. Ray grew up a good boy, loved his folks and went to school,
F **C**
Ran around the neighborhood, the alleys, gangways, too.
C **Em**
Ferdinand and Chester were his pals through thick and thin,
F **C** **F** **C**
Comic books and softball, shooting marbles near the gym.

C **Em**
3. But little boys grew fast back then, so hungry and so lean,
F **C**
In March of 1938, Ray Borta was sixteen.
C **Em**
And dreaming through a catalog, he took a second look—
F **C** **F** **C**
And bought his own revolver from that mail-order book.

Chorus:

F **G** **C** **Am**
Ray-y-y-mond, it was just a little show,
F **G**
Your fleeting life could not be stayed,
C **Am**
As your mother watched it flow.
F **G** **C** **Am**
Ray-y-y-mond, it was hard to let you go,
F **G**
Sometimes the ones you miss the most
F **C**
Are the ones you never know.

Continued next page

Harmonica over 16 bars of verse structure

- C** **Em**
4. His beautiful new twenty-two arrived within a week,
F **C**
And Raymond proudly showed it to his buddies on the street.
C **Em**
They hustled down the basement, Ferdinand and Chester, too.
F **C** **F** **C**
And Ray was now a big shot, with a little trick to do.

- C** **Em**
5. The twirling gun spun round and round, his pistolero act,
F **C**
But slipped off Raymond's finger as his buddies tried to laugh,
C **Em**
It hit the concrete with a crack and into Ray it tore,
F **C** **F** **C**
And Raymond lay there bleeding, and Raymond was no more.

Repeat Chorus

Repeat Harmonica over 16 bars of verse structure

- C** **Em**
6. The cops they could not save him, as Verna was called in,
F **C**
She trembled o'er her dying boy and gently touched his skin.
C **Em**
His ski cap lay beside him, red bandana 'neath his head,
F **C** **F** **C**
She took her son into her arms, Pieta of the dead.

- C** **Em**
7. Front page tabloid paper, Chicago Daily Times'
F **C**
"He Knew That It Was Loaded" says the merciless headline.
C **Em**
Ray's profile looks a little like my Dad's when he was young,
F **C** **F** **C**
We never knew you, Raymond, but your prayer is finally sung.

Repeat Chorus

Repeat Chorus using "Amen, Amen" for "Raymond"

Repeat Harmonica over 16 bars of verse structure.