

# At Seventeen

Words and Music by Janis Ian

Moderately

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *p*. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines in both hands.



Dm



I learned the truth at sev - en - teen. That love was meant for beau -  
 (A) brown - eyed girl in hand - me - downs. whose name I nev - er could -  
 (To) those of us who know the pain. of val - en - tines that nev -



- ty queens and high school girls with clear - skinned smiles who  
 - pro - nounce said, "Pit - y, please, the ones who serve they  
 - er came, and those whose names were nev - er called when



mar - ried young and then re - tired.  
 on - ly get what they de - serve.  
 choos - ing sides for bas - ket - ball. The  
 It was

C Dm

val - en - tines I nev - er knew, the Fri - day night cha - rades  
 rich re - la - tioned home - town queen, mar - ries in - to what  
 long a - go and far a - way. The world was young - er than

G7

of youth were spent on one more beau - ti - ful At  
 she needs A guar - an - tee of com - pa - ny And  
 to - day and dreams were all they gave for free to

C

sev - en - teen, I learned the truth, And  
 ha - ven for the eld - er - ly." Re  
 ug - ly duck - ling girls like me. We all

E $\flat$  Dm7

3 fr.

those of us with rav - aged fac - es, lack - ing in the so -  
 mem - ber those who win the game lose the love they sought  
 play the game and when we dare to cheat our - selves at sol -

G7 Cm7 3 fr. Fm7

- cial grac - es, Des - p'rate - ly re - mained at home in -  
 to gain In de - ben - tures of qual - i - ty and  
 i - taire In - vent - ing lov - ers on the phone, re -

Cm7 3 fr. Fm7 Ab 4 fr.

vent - ing lov - ers on the phone. Who called to say, "Come dance  
 du - bi - ous in - teg - ri - ty. Their small town eyes will gape  
 pent - ing oth - er lives un - known, that call and say, "Come dance

G7 Cm7 3 fr. Fm7

with me," and mur - mured vague ob - scen - i - ties,  
 at you in dull sur - prise when pay - ment due  
 with me," and mur - mur vague ob - scen - i - ties.

Dm7 G7

It is - n't all it seems at sev - en - teen.  
 ex - ceeds ac - counts re - ceived at sev - en - teen.  
 at ug - ly girls like me at sev - en - teen.

1. 2.  
 2. A  
 3. To

C Cmaj7

3.