

BRIDGE OF TEARS

By Ciaran Bonar

Key of C

^C
In a Glen near Muckish Mountain
^{F C}
in the north of Donegal,
^{F C F C}
There lies a tiny rocky bridge
^G
its story few recall.

^C
A mother and her son one day
^{F C}
upon that bridge appeared
^{F C F C}
to say their very last farewells,
^{G C}
Her words to him were clear

^C
“Farewell, to you my precious son
^{F C}
That now you’re on your way
^{F C F C}
from our sweet home in Gortahork
^G
Near Magharoarty Bay.”

^C
“And now the time has come, alas
^{F C}
I cannot bear to see
^{F C F C}
your parting shadow on the hill
^{G C}
as you depart from me”

CHORUS

^{F G}
“But I will hold you closely
^{F C}
now the time is here
^{F C F C}
Remember well this lonely place
^G
they call the Bridge of Tears.
^{F G}
And you will venture onwards,
^{F C}
and I’ll be waiting here,
^{F C F C}
and ever more I’ll see your face
^{G C}
upon the Bridge of Tears”

^C
He spoke to her in lowly voice
^{F C}
and shuddered as he spoke.
^{F C F C}
“Oh Mother I must make my way
^G
towards the waiting boat”.

^C
He lifted up his travel pack
^{F C}
His heart fell to his feet
^{F C F C}
And he turned and ventured up the hill
^G
where the crag and forest meet.

^C
And She watched him in the falling light
^{F C}
climb up towards the moon,
^{F C F C}
that often sheds an eerie light
^G
upon the heather’s bloom.

^C
She tried to reach out towards him
^{F C}
but he had disappeared,
^{F C F C}
so she sat upon the rocky bridge
^{G C}
her face aflood with tears.

CHORUS

^{F G}
“And I want to hold you closely,
^{F C}
now the time is here.
^{F C F C}
Remember well this lonely place
^G
they call the Bridge of Tears.
^{F G}
And you will venture onwards,
^{F C}
but I’ll be waiting here,
^{F C F C}
and ever more I’ll see your face
^{G G}
upon the Bridge of Tears”

INSTRUMENTAL

C
 And then there came a silence
 F C
 so woeful and forlorn,
 F C F
 like in that dreadful Springtime
 G
 when the killing blight was born.
 C
 For she had lost 4 children
 F C
 and her husband Paddy Bawn
 F C F C
 to the blight of 1 8 4 5
 G C
 and the famine that it spawned.

C
 And now her only son had gone
 F C
 she was left in darkened fear
 F C F C
 lost within that lonely place
 G
 they call the Bridge of Tears.
 C
 And she set out on the boggy road
 F C
 and sadly she did go
 F C F C
 towards her empty little house
 G C
 so joyful long ago.

CHORUS REPEAT

F G
 "And I want to hold you closely,
 F C
 now the time is here.
 F C F C
 Remember well this lonely place
 G
 they call the Bridge of Tears.
 F G
 And you will reach America,
 F C
 but I'll be waiting here,
 F C F C
 and ever more I'll see your face
 G C
 upon the Bridge of Tears"