

Words and Music: Bill Roper  
Copyright 2026

### I Used To Know Things

**Am**

You know it would have been better

**C/G**

If I'd just torn up that letter

**D**

That offered me more money

**F**

**E7**

Than I'd ever hoped to see.

**Am**

I had a mountain made of debt

**C/G**

And a mountain range before me yet

**D**

I'd need to get through med school,

**F**

So I signed the contract like a fool

**E7**

**Am7**

And sold off my degree.

(Chorus)

**Am7**

I used to know things.

**G**

Now I don't know them any more.

**Dm6**

Outrageous fortune came with slings

**E7**

And arrows that have left me sore.

**Dm6**

Now I'm just a shadow

**Am7**

Of the man I used to be.

**G**

**Em7**

I want to know what I need to know,

**E7**

**Am Em Am Em**

The pieces that I need to make me me.

They say that time is money  
And I guess it's sort of funny  
That my four years of study  
Wound up going to somebody  
Who had money from his dad,  
The sort of thing I never had.  
Now he's got every memory  
That I learned chasing my degree  
And I'm an empty man.

(Bridge)

**F**  
I'm rich beyond my wildest dreams.  
**C/G**  
I could just go retire  
**G** **C/G**  
And leave my missing memories to lie.  
**F**  
The reflection in my mirror seems  
**Am7**  
To be so old and tired,  
**G** **E7**  
Staring back at me with empty eyes.

The only choice I can defend  
Is go and learn it all again,  
Fill the memories I sold  
For this tainted pot of gold.  
And there's this girl with empty eyes.  
I don't take long to realize  
She got a letter just like me,  
Sold her degree and memory  
And so she understands.

(Alternate chorus then chorus)  
We used to know things.  
Now we don't know them any more.  
Outrageous fortune came with slings  
And arrows that have left us sore.  
Now we're simply shadows  
Of the people that we were  
And we want to know what we need to know,  
The pieces that would make us me and her.