

A GIFT OR A CURSE

As recorded by Iced Earth

(From the 2008 Album THE CRUCIBLE OF MAN)

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Words by Jon Schaffer
Music by Jon Schaffer/Jim Morris
Arranged by Jon Schaffer

A Intro

All guitars tuned to Eb

♩ = 126

Gtr III

Am F

let ring¹

5 5 (5) (5) (5) 10 9

sl.

Am

Gtr III

let ring

10 (10) x x 5 x x x x

Gtr IV

let ring

0 2 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 2 0 2 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 2 2 2 2

B Verse



9

let ring¹

sl.

T 5 (5) (5) (5)

A 5 (5) (5) (5)

B

T 1 (1)

A 2 (2)

B

13

Am

let ring

1.

let ring

T 10 (10) x x 5

A x x 5

B

T 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

C Chorus

17

2.

C G Am

Gtr IV

let ring

let ring

T 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 0 3

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 2 0 0 3 0 3 2 0

21

Gtr III *mf*

8va-----|

T
A
B

Gtr IV
let ring-----|

T
A
B

25

C G Am 8va--1

T
A
B

let ring-----| *let ring*-----|

T
A
B

D.S.

29

8va-----

1

fff

T 19 (19) x x x x

A x x x x

B x x 5 5

let ring-----

T 2 2 3 2 1 2 2 0 2 2 0 1 2 2

A 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 0 1 2 2

B 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 0 1 2 2

D 3rd Verse

31

F

let ring¹

T 5 (5) (5) (5)

A 5 (5) (5) (5)

B 5 (5) (5) (5)

10 9

sl.

T 1 (1)

A 2 (2)

B 2 (2)

1.

35

Am

let ring-----

T 10 (10) x x 5 x x 5

A x x 5 x x 5

B x x 5 x x 5

let ring-----

T 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 2 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

39

2.

let ring

T 10 (10)

A

B

let ring

T 3 2 1 2 0 0 1 2 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

E Distortion Verse

F5 G5

43

Gtr VI

T 7 9 4 5 7 5 (5) 7 5 4 5 7 5 4 7 9 4 5 7 5 (5) 7 5 4 5 7 5 4

A

B

Gtr V Harmony guitar plays top notes

T 12 13 10 12 10 (10) 12 10 10 12 10 12 13 10 12 10 (10) 12 10 10 12 10

A 9 10 12 7 9 7 (7) 9 7 12 7 9 7 12 9 10 12 7 9 7 (7) 9 7 12 7 9 7 12

B 9 10 10 (7) 9 7 10 7 9 7 10 9 10 10 (7) 9 7 10 7 9 7 10

Gtrs I, II P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

T

A

B

47

A5 G5 A5 C5 G5 A5 G5 A5 C5 G5 3x

T
A 5 7 4 5 (5) 7 5 4 5 7 5 4 5 7 4 5 (5) 7 5 4 5 7 5 4

B

T 10 12 10 (10) 12 10 10 12 10 10 12 10 (10) 12 10 10 12 10

A 7 9 12 (7) 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 7 12

B 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

P.M.-----| P.M.-----| P.M.-----| P.M.-----|

T

A 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 5 7 5 5 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7

B 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 3 5 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 3 5 3

51

C5 G/B A5 N.C. A5

Gtr V Harmony guitars combined for simplicity

T 13 12 10 9 12 10

A 9 7 9 7 9 7

B 10 9 7 10 9 7

Gtrs I, II P.M.-----| P.M.-----| P.M.-----|

T

A 5 5 5 5 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 3 2 0

B 3 3 3 2 2 2 0 0 0 3 2 0

F Guitar Solo

53

Gtr VI

N.C. A5

A.H.

T 9 5 7 5 9 5 9 5 9 5 7 9 7 5 9 5 8 5 7 8 7 5 8 5 8 8 8

A

B P P P P P P P D

Gtr V *f*

T (10) (9) (7)

Gtrs I, II *f* P.M.-----| P.M.--| P.M.--| P.M.--|

T

A

B 0 0 3 2 0 2 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 2 0

54

8va----- N.C. A5

Gtr VI

A.H.

T 12 8 10 8 12 8 12 8 12 8 10 12 10 8 12 8 11 8 10 11 10 8 11 8 11 0 10 13

A

B P P P P P P P H H

Gtrs I, II P.M.-----| P.M.--| P.M.--| P.M.--|

T

A

B 0 0 3 2 0 2 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 2 0

57

8va-----

T 12 13 12 11 7 17

A

B

sl. sl. sl.

P.M.----- P.M.-----

T

A

B 0 0 3 0 0 0 0

58

C5 8va----- N.C. A5

T 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 3

A 12 15 17 15 12 17 14 12 14 17 14 17 19 16 17 20 17 19 20 19 17 20 18 17 19

B 12 15 17 12 14 17 14 14 12 14 17 14 17 19 16 17 20 17 19 20 19 17 20 18 17 19

H H H H P P P P H H H H H H H H H H P P P P

P.M.-----

T

A 5 3 3 2 2 2 0 0

B 3 3 3 2 2 2 0 0 0 3 2 0

8va
60

N.C.
8va-----A5

Gtr VI
(17)

sl.

H P H P H P

Gtr V

12 13 12 14 13 14 12 13 12 14 13 14 12 13 12 14 13 14 12 13 12 14 13 14 12 13 12

H P H P H P H P H P H P

Gtrs I, II P.M.-----| P.M.-| P.M.-| P.M.-|

T
A
B

0 0 3 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2

8va----- N.C. A5

62

T 12 13 12 15 14 15 12 13 12 15 14 15 12 13 12 17 20 17 20

A 15 17 19 16 17 19 17 18 20 20 17 20

B H P H P H P P

Full

T 12 13 12 14 13 14 12 13 12 12 13 15 12 15 12 15

A 10 12 14 10 12 14 12 13 15 15 12 15

B H P H P H P P

Full

P.M.----- P.M.-- P.M.-- P.M.--

T 0 0 3 0 2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 2

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

8va----- C5 G/B A5

64

Gtr VI

Full Full Full Full

T 20 (20) 17 20 17 20 (20) 17 20 17 20 (20) 17 20 17 20 (20) 20 (20) 20 17

A 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17 20 17

B P P P sl.

Gtrs I, II P.M.----- P.M.--

T 0 0 3 0 2 0 0 0 5 5 2 0

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 5 2 0

B 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 5 5 2 0

66

N.C. A5 Am

Gtr III

T
A
B

8va-----|

Gtr VI

Full Full

T
A
B

19 17 20 20 (20) (20)

Gtrs I, II

P.M.-----|

T
A
B

0 3 2 0 (2) (2)

0 3 2 0 (0) (0)

G Final Verse

69

F

Gtr III

let ring¹

T
A
B

5 (5) (5) (5)

5 (5) (5) (5)

10 9

sl.

Gtrs I, II

T
A
B

(2) (2)

(0) (0)

H Chorus

C G

Am

8va--1

85

T
A
B

mf

let ring-----|

let ring-----|

T
A
B

3 2 0 2 0 0 | 0 3 2 0 | 2 2 3 2 1 2 2 | 0 2 0 1 2 2

C G

89

8va-----|

T
A
B

17 (17)

let ring-----|

T
A
B

3 2 1 2 2 | 0 2 0 1 2 2 | 3 2 0 0 0 | 0 2 2 2 2 2 | 3 2 0 0 3

I Outro

Am

97

let ring

T 10 (10) 7 7

A

B

sl. sl.

let ring

T 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

101

let ring

T 5 (5) 8 (8) 7 7 5 7 5 7 7

A 10 9 8 7 (7) 5 7 5 7 7

B

sl.

P

let ring

T 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

105

8va-----1

1/2 Full

T
A 7 5 (5) 12 13 12 12 12 13 14 (14) 15 13 15 15
B

sl.

let ring-----|

T 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2
A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

109

8va-----1

8va-----1

1/2 P

T (15) 15 17 15 (15) (15) 13 15 15 (15) 13 14 14
A
B

sl. *P*

let ring-----|

T 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2
A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

113

8va-----1

H

T (14) 12 12 (12) (12) 10 9 10
A
B

let ring

let ring-----|

T 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 0 2 0 1 2
A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
B 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

117

T
A
B

8va-----1

15-17 17

sl.

let ring-----|

T
A
B

8va-----1

121

T
A
B

17-20 20 20-19 (19) (19) (19)

sl. sl.

let ring-----|

T
A
B

8va-----1