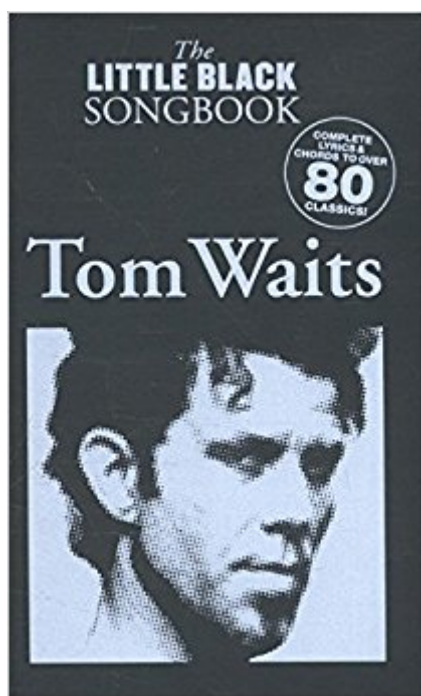




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# Tom Waits - The Little Black Songbook: Chords/Lyrics (Little Black Songbooks)



## Synopsis

(The Little Black Songbook). A pocket-sized collection of Tom Waits songs, in chord songbook format, with complete lyrics and guitar chords diagrams. 84 songs include: Alice \* Chocolate Jesus \* Downtown Train \* Hold On \* I Wish I Was in New Orleans \* Jersey Girl \* Long Way Home \* Martha \* The Piano Has Been Drinking (Not Me) \* Soldier's Things \* Warm Beer and Cold Women \* and more.

## Book Information

Series: Little Black Songbooks

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

I'm a little torn on how to review this. On one hand, it's an amazing tool to learn some really classic Waits songs. For the price, 80 song chords/lyrics is really a great deal. But... I have a few issues with the song selection. A lot of the songs here are not really songs you'd want to play on guitar (Step Right Up, other songs with essentially no chords/melodies). But you do get a lot of the classics from throughout his career. I still wish it would have focused more on songs with interesting chord progressions/melodies. Second issue: this book is really small, so it can be hard to read from a distance, and it's also hard to keep open. I can usually weigh it down with other books to hold it open while playing. But this has slowly caused the spine to split...which is actually ok, since the vinyl cover makes it pretty durable. But in a perfect world, I'd forego the "pocketbook" size for something more practical for sitting and playing.

I'm no guitarist by any standard. I can't read music on a scale, and I can't pick out a key from a song on the radio. But that hasn't stopped me from playing the guitars I do have as if I have some sort of talent or skill. I love this little book. I use it to cheat -- to sing Tom Waits songs loudly to spare chords and ugly baselines when my wife isn't home. It's a great little book, the chords can be used easily while you listen to a song to get a real good feeling for what it being played. Are they "right" all the time: not really. But they're far more correct than my voice, and that's all that matters. Besides, Waitsian music is meant to be slurred.

All of the Little Black Songbooks I have are great! Small, short, accurate versions. Just the info you need to learn the tune, if you are somewhat musically competent.

The only reason it's not 5 stars is that I wish there were more songs. That said, it's a really strong selection. The book is nice and portable, suitable for study in the world underground, flying sardine cans, and candlelit prowls in the dark woods. If you're a Tom Waits fan don't miss this - for the price, it's more than worth it. It even has a little guitar explanation at the opening, so if you want to learn guitar, there is a wealth of easy songs to practice. If you already play an instrument, I found they did a good job at including some slightly more sophisticated material, too. For those who aren't familiar with Tom Waits, some people do not like his voice at first, so this book may be a good introduction to his lyrics and song structures. I love Tom's voice, and think it suits his songs perfectly, but it can be jarring to some at first, so this book could be a good little device to familiarize yourself with the greatest American songwriter before diving into to his excellent recordings.

Wow this is a great songbook, I'd give it 6 stars if I could. I love the small format, though it might be too small for people who have trouble reading small text. I haven't used it enough to tell if the songs are all correct, but everything I've played has been impressively detailed, and using what seem to be the real chords instead of dumbing everything down to the usual easy first position stuff. Really great work. The one criticism I'd have is that I've found a couple of chord mislabellings. For example in I Hope That I Don't Fall In Love With You they call a G11 (3x321x) a G13. No biggie since the chord diagram above it is correct, and most people are going to have to look at the diagram for a G13 anyway. Fantastic work, I hope more artists release songbooks in this style.

The book arrived much earlier than expected, especially since it was coming from Europe to America. It's a perfect size, and the cover is almost like vinyl - very durable. The song selection is

AWESOME - everything from the 1970s "ballad-esque" songs, through his experimental 1980s albums, to now (Alice, Mule Variations, Blood Money, etc.) Very impressed with the range of songs, and the music seems to be accurate. Love it! I'm very pleased with this find. I've already ordered the Little Black Songbook of Acoustic Classics as well.

What a treasure trove of Tom we have here. It is loaded with enough great songs you will be only mildly sad to see an omission of your own personal favs here and there. Romeo is Bleeding is in here in case your Mom insists you bring over your Ukulele and entertain the Bridge Gals. Believe me, she won't ask again even if you do Downtown Train, Ole 55 or I never Talk To Strangers. I wish Pasties and a G string was in here I won't lie.

Eighty tunes in all from one of the greatest songwriters of all time, definately worth the purchase. The songs are just guitar chords and lyrics, but if you play along it's easy to figure out the timing and melody. Some of the songs are just not meant to be played on guitar, but they try to help you out, and it's nice to have a collection of the lyrics. The book is small, though packed to the gills with great tunes, and it makes a great traveling companion.

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