

Dear Alfred Russel Wallace by Jonny Berliner

Capo on 3rd fret

G C/G G

Dear Alfred Russell Wallace, you wrote to me today,

G B7 Em C G C/G G

Explaining ways that life can change, now life'll never be the same.

C/G D7/G G G/F# C/G

For many years I've been hiding on an island of my own,

D7/G G B7 C

Whilst braving tigers you've hunted truth on islands never known,

D G G/F# Em D

I wasted time as you dined with jungle tribes to find,

C/G G C/G D7/G

The answers I've been sitting on, biding my time.

G C/G G

Alfred Russell Wallace, you wrote to me today,

G B7 Em C

Explaining ways that life can change, mine'll never be the same.

G C/G B7 Em

A naturalist of promise, you're a braver man than I,

C/G G C/G G

For 20 years I've been scared of these ideas but they were mine.

It's harder to unsay a thing than say nothing at all,

When reputation can make a man, or cause a man to fall,

And indignation is brought upon the man who takes a stand,

I stood to lose my standing, who's the better man?

Alfred Russell Wallace, you wrote to me today,

Explaining ways that life can change, and it'll never be the same.

A naturalist of promise you're a braver man than me,

For 20 years I've been scared of these ideas, you set me free,

Oooh oh oh when the honest truth is told,

My sin is holding back a truth that wasn't ever mine to hold,

For knowledge grows when ideas can flow and nourish those they feed,

The world needs men like you because of men like me.

Alfred Russell Wallace, you wrote to me today

Explaining ways that life can change, and yours'll never be the same,

You're a fearless man and honest, and when the battles start to rage,

I will stand beside you Wallace you're a giant of your age,

Yours sincerely Charles Darwin to the man in the Malay