

Blinded By the Light

(Bruce Springsteen)

Madman drummers bummers and Indians in the
summer with a teenage diplomat
In the dumps with the mumps as the adolescent
pumps his way into his hat
With a boulder on my shoulder, feelin' kinda
older, I tripped the merry-go-round
With this very unpleasing sneezing and
wheezing, the calliope crashed to the ground
Some all-hot half-shot was headin' for the hot
spot, snappin' his fingers, clappin' his hands
And some fleshpot mascot was tied into a
lover's knot with a whatnot in her hand
And now young Scott with a slingshot finally
found a tender spot and throws his lover in the
sand
And some bloodshot forget-me-not whispers,
"Daddy's within earshot, save the buckshot,
turn up the band"

And she was blinded by the light
Cut loose like a deuce, another runner in the
night
Blinded by the light
She got down but she never got tight, but she'll
make it alright

Some brimstone baritone anti-cyclone rolling
stone preacher from the East
He says, "Dethrone the dictaphone, hit it in its
funny bone, that's where they expect it least"
And some new-mown chaperone was standin'
in the corner all alone, watchin' the young girls
dance
And some fresh-sown moonstone was messin'
with his frozen zone to remind him of the
feeling of romance

Yeah, he was blinded by the light
Cut loose like a deuce, another runner in the
night
Blinded by the light
He got down but he never got tight, but he's
gonna make it tonight

Some silicone sister with her manager's mister
told me I got what it takes
She said, "I'll turn you on, sonny, to something
strong if you play that song with the funky
break"
And Go-Cart Mozart was checkin' out the
weather chart to see if it was safe to go outside
And little Early-Pearly came by in her curly-
wurly and asked me if I needed a ride
Oh, some hazard from Harvard was skunked on
beer, playin' backyard bombardier
Yes, and Scotland Yard was trying hard, they
sent some dude with a calling card, he said,
"Do what you like, but don't do it here"
Well, I jumped up, turned around, spit in the
air, fell on the ground and asked him which was
the way back home
He said, "Take a right at the light, keep goin'
straight until night, and then, boy, you're on
your own"
And now in Zanzibar, a shootin' star was ridin'
in a side car, hummin' a lunar tune
Yes, and the avatar said, "Blow the bar but first
remove the cookie jar, we're gonna teach those
boys to laugh too soon"
And some kidnapped handicap was complainin'
that he caught the clap from some mousetrap he
bought last night
Well, I unsnapped his skull cap and between
his ears I saw a gap but figured he'd be all right

He was just blinded by the light
Cut loose like a deuce, another runner in the
night
Blinded by the light
Mama always told me not to look into the
sights of the sun
Oh, but Mama, that's where the fun is
I was blinded
I was blinded
I was blinded

"Blinded by the Light" is a song written and recorded by Bruce Springsteen, which first appeared on his 1973 debut album *Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.* A cover by British rock band Manfred Mann's Earth Band reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States in February 1977 and was also a top ten hit in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada.

The song came about when Columbia president Clive Davis, upon listening to an early version of *Greetings from Asbury Park N.J.*, felt the album lacked a potential single. Springsteen wrote this and "Spirit in the Night" in response.

According to Springsteen, the song came about from going through a rhyming dictionary in search of appropriate words. The first line of the song, "Madman drummers, bummers, and Indians in the summers with a teenage diplomat" is autobiographical—"Madman drummers" is a reference to drummer Vini Lopez, known as "Mad Man" (later changed to "Mad Dog"); "Indians in the summer" refers to the name of Springsteen's old Little League team; "teenage diplomat" refers to himself. The remainder of the song tells of many unrelated events, with the refrain of "Blinded by the light, cut loose like a deuce, another runner in the night."

"Blinded by the Light" was the first song on, and first single from, *Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.* Springsteen's version was commercially unsuccessful and did not appear on the music charts.

Manfred Mann's Earth Band released a version of the song on their 1976 album *The Roaring Silence*. Their version includes the "Chopsticks" melody played on piano near the end of the bridge of the song. The track reached #1 on both the Billboard Hot 100 and the Canadian RPM charts. Manfred Mann's Earth Band's recording of "Blinded by the Light" is Springsteen's only #1 single as a songwriter on the Hot 100 (he never had a #1 as a performer except as part of *USA for Africa*).

In 2002, Danish act Funkstar De Luxe released its disco version of this song. A "jazzified" version can be found on Springsteen's 2007 video and audio release *Live in Dublin*, recorded with The Sessions Band.

The song is used in the films *Blow*, *Running with Scissors*, and *Super Troopers 2*.

Lyrics

Manfred Mann's Earth Band's recording of the song changes the lyrics. The most prominent change is in the chorus, where Springsteen's "cut loose like a deuce" is replaced with "revved up like a deuce." This is commonly misheard as "wrapped up like a douche" (the V sound in "revved" is almost unpronounced, and the S sound in "deuce" comes across as "SH" due to a significant lisp). The lyric is actually a reference to a hot rod "deuce coupe." Springsteen was fond of classic hot rods in his youth, hence the line "cut loose like a deuce, another runner in the night." Springsteen himself has joked about the controversy, claiming that it was not until Manfred Mann rewrote the song to be about a feminine hygiene product that it became popular.