

Born to Run

(Bruce Springsteen)

In the day we sweat it out on the
streets of a runaway American dream
At night we ride through mansions of
glory in suicide machines
Sprung from cages out on Highway 9
Chrome wheeled, fuel injected and
steppin' out over the line
Oh, baby this town rips the bones
from your back
It's a death trap, it's a suicide rap
We gotta get out while we're young
'Cause tramps like us, baby we were
born to run

Wendy let me in, I wanna be your
friend
I want to guard your dreams and
visions
Just wrap your legs round these
velvet rims
And strap your hands across my
engines
Together we could break this trap
We'll run till we drop, baby we'll
never go back
Oh, will you walk with me out on the
wire?
'Cause baby I'm just a scared and
lonely rider
But I gotta find out how it feels
I want to know if love is wild, babe, I
want to know if love is real
Oh can you show me?

Beyond the palace hemi-powered
drones scream down the boulevard
The girls comb their hair in rearview
mirrors
And the boys try to look so hard
The amusement park rises bold and
stark
Kids are huddled on the beach in a
mist
I wanna die with you, Wendy, on the
streets tonight
In an everlasting kiss

(1, 2, 3, 4) The highways jammed
with broken heroes on a last chance
power drive
Everybody's out on the run tonight
but there's no place left to hide
Together, Wendy, we can live with
the sadness
I'll love you with all the madness in
my soul
Oh, someday girl, I don't know when,
we're gonna get to that place
Where we really want to go and we'll
walk in the sun
But till then tramps like us - baby we
were born to run
Oh honey, tramps like us, baby we
were born to run
Tramps like us, baby we were born to
run

"Born to Run" is a song by American singer songwriter Bruce Springsteen, and the title song of his album *Born to Run*. Upon its release, music critic Robert Christgau took note of its wall of sound influence and called it "the fulfillment of everything 'Be My Baby' was about and lots more."

The song ranked number 21 on the Rolling Stone list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time and is included in The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll.

Written at 7½ West End Court in Long Branch, New Jersey in early 1974, the song was Bruce Springsteen's final attempt to become successful. The prior year, Springsteen had released two albums to critical acclaim but with little commercial movement.

Written in the first person, the song is a love letter to a girl named Wendy, for whom the hot rod-riding protagonist seems to possess the passion to love, just not the patience. However, Springsteen has noted that it has a much simpler core: getting out of Freehold. Route 9 is mentioned from the lyric "sprung from cages out on Highway 9".

In his 1996 book *Songs*, Springsteen relates that while the beginning of the song was written on guitar around the opening riff, the song's writing was finished on piano, the instrument that most of the *Born to Run* album was composed on. The song was recorded in the key of E major.

The first recording of the song was made by Allan Clarke of the British group The Hollies, although its release was delayed, only appearing after Springsteen's own now-famous version.

In recording the song Springsteen first earned his noted reputation for perfectionism, laying down as many as eleven guitar tracks to get the sound just right. The recording process and alternate ideas for the song's arrangement are described in the *Wings For Wheels* documentary DVD included in the 2005 reissue *Born to Run 30th Anniversary Edition* package.

The track was recorded at 914 Sound Studios in Blauvelt, New York amidst touring breaks during 1974, with final recording done on August 6, well in advance of the rest of the album, and featured Ernest "Boom" Carter on the drums and David Sancious on keyboards; they would be replaced by Max Weinberg and Roy Bittan for the rest of the album and in the ongoing E Street Band (which was still uncredited on Springsteen's records at the time). The song was also recorded with only Springsteen and Mike Appel as producers; it would be later in the following year, when work on the album bogged down, that Jon Landau was brought in as an additional producer. Future record executive Jimmy Iovine engineered the majority of the sessions.

Upon release in August 1975, the song and the album became unparalleled successes for Springsteen, springing him into stardom, and resulting in simultaneous cover stories in *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines.