

## Cinnamon Girl

(Neil Young)

[Verse 1]

I want to live  
With a cinnamon girl  
I could be happy  
The rest of my life  
With a cinnamon girl

[Chorus]

A dreamer of pictures  
I run in the night  
You see us together  
Chasing the moonlight  
My cinnamon girl

[Verse 2]

Ten silver saxes  
A bass with a bow  
The drummer relaxes  
And waits between shows  
For his cinnamon girl

[Chorus]

[Outro]

Pa sent me money now  
I'm going to make it somehow  
I need another chance  
You see your baby loves to dance  
Yeah yeah yeah

"Cinnamon Girl" debuted on the 1969 album *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere*, which was also Young's first album with backing band Crazy Horse. Released as a single the following year, it reached #55 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1970.

Like two other songs from *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere*, "Cowgirl in the Sand" and "Down by the River", Young wrote "Cinnamon Girl" while he was suffering from the flu with a high fever at his home in Topanga, California.

This song displays the very prominent role played by Danny Whitten in the sound of Young's early recordings. The vocals are a duet, with Whitten singing the high harmony against Young's low harmony. (The 45 rpm single mix of the song, in addition to being in mono and cutting off the guitar outro, features Whitten's vocal more prominently than the album version.) Young performed the song on his then-recently acquired Gibson Les Paul, "Old Black".

The lyrics have the singer daydreaming for a girl to love, singing that he waits "between shows" for his lover. Young has claimed that he wrote the song "for a city girl on peeling pavement coming at me through Phil Ochs' eyes playing finger cymbals. It was hard to explain to my wife." The city girl playing finger cymbals is a reference to folk singer Jean Ray.