



BAD MOON RISING

John Fogerty

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL

1969

Fantasy Records #622

Single from the Creedence album, **GREEN RIVER**. Time: 2:18. Flip Side: "Lodi". Released in U.S.A. April, 1969.

Recorded at Wally Heider Studios, San Francisco, California, USA???. Produced by **John Fogerty**.
Engineered by **Walt Payne, Hank McGill** and **Russ Gary**. Arranged by **John Fogerty**

At the time, many people associated this song with the rise of Richard Nixon in the U.S. That is not the case. Fogerty was inspired to compose this song after seeing 'The Devil and Daniel Webster', a 1941 movie. One of the scenes rotated around a hurricane. One rancher saved his harvests, when all others were obliterated, by making a deal with the devil. The most interesting thing about this song is its original, initial dark meaning and inspiration, contrasting it with the happy-go-lucky feel of the song. John knows this. -- Larry --



JOHN FOGERTY - 1993:Rolling Stone

"I got the imagery from an old movie called 'The Devil and Daniel Webster.' Basically, Daniel Webster makes a deal with Mr. Scratch, the devil. It was supposed to be apocryphal. At one point in the movie, there was a huge hurricane. Everybody's crops and houses are destroyed. Boom. right next door is the guy's field who made the deal with the devil, and his corn is still straight up, six feet. That image was in my mind. I went, 'Holy mackerel!'"

"My song wasn't about Mr. Scratch, and it wasn't about the deal. It was about the apocalypse that was going to be visited upon us. It wasn't until the band was learning the song that I realized the dichotomy. Here you got this song with all these hurricanes and blowing and raging ruin and all that, but it's [snaps fingers] 'I see a bad moon rising.' It's a happy-sounding tune, right? It didn't bother me at the time."

JOHN FOGERTY

(about The Devil and Daniel Webster) That just seemed so spooky, the idea of an epochal force nature, or the devil, or whatever that s gonna get you. Later, people began to point out, Hey, John, you ve got this song about death and doom, but it s this bouncy little thing. And I d go, I just didn t worry about that part."

JOHN FOGERTY - 2006:Uncut

"I had the phrase Bad Moon Rising written down in my song-title book. I thought back from that to an old movie I d seen called The Devil And Daniel Webster [1941]. It s about this man who sells his soul to the devil to have greater rewards here in this life, and one night there was this terrible hurricane, and the man is cowering in his barn. In the morning, he looks over at his neighbour s yard, and all the corn is just squashed down, and everything s totally destroyed. And, right at the fence line, where his property is, the corn is standing straight up, peaceful and untouched. That just seemed so spooky, the idea of an epochal force nature, or the devil, or whatever that s gonna get you.

Later, people began to point out, Hey, John, you ve got this song about death and doom, but it s this bouncy little thing. And I d go, I just didn t worry about that part. The scariness of the words seemed to be telling enough; the cool music was gonna put it across. When you re a very tuned-in young person, you re tied to everything that affects your generation. So I think [that some social commentary] was in there. "

[YOU TUBE STUDIO TRACK VIDEO w/Band photo](#)

[YOU TUBE LYRIC VIDEO](#)

[YOU TUBE LIVE 1969, The Johnny Cash TV Show](#)

[YOU TUBE LIVE 1969, Woodstock festival, Bethel, New York](#)

[YOU TUBE LIVE 2005, Los Angeles, Cal. USA](#)

I see the bad moon arising.
I see trouble on the way.
I see earthquakes and lightnin'.
I see bad times today.

Don't go around tonight,
Well, it's bound to take your life,
There's a bad moon on the rise.

I hear hurricanes ablowing.
I know the end is coming soon.
I fear rivers over flowing.
I hear the voice of rage and ruin.

All right!

Hope you got your things together.
Hope you are quite prepared to die.
Looks like we're in for nasty weather.
One eye is taken for an eye.

Personnel

John Fogerty - lead vocal, lead guitar
Tom Fogerty - guitar
Stu Cook - bass
Doug Clifford - drums