

My, My, Hey, Hey (Out Of The Blue) - Hey, Hey, My, My (Into the Black)

Written by bluesever

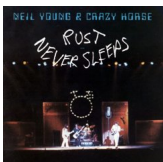
Friday, 07 December 2018 23:05 - Last Updated Tuesday, 02 March 2021 16:22

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Around 1977 Neil Young formed a band called The Ducks that included Jeff Blackburn. The band played for a \$3 cover charge in the hip Santa Cruz club environment. "My, My, Hey, Hey (Out Of The Blue)" came out of this period and Jeff Blackburn received co-writing credits. This deals with the fleeting nature of fame and how hard it is to stay relevant as an artist. "Rock and Roll Is Here to Stay" is a '50s song by Danny and the Juniors. Young alludes to or mentions artists from the '50s (Danny), '60s (Elvis), and '70s (The Sex Pistols, specifically lead singer Johnny Rotten) to show that *"Rock and roll will never die*. This was the first track on 'Rust Never Sleeps'.

Hey, Hey, My, My

'**Rust Never Sleeps**' was a unique recording by Neil Young and Crazy Horse as it was an album of all new material mainly recorded live but post-produced with some studio overdubbing and most of the audience ambiance removed. This all resulted in a final product that feels at once intimate and intense. The album is half acoustic and half electric, opening and closing with different versions of the same song: **"Hey Hey, My My"**.



Rust Never Sleeps, album

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"My My, Hey Hey (Out of the Blue)" was recorded live at the Boarding House in early 1978. On this track, rock and roll chameleon Neil Young single-handedly pays tribute to punk and foreshadows the grunge movement of the 1990s. The lyrics deal fairly directly with the brevity of life as well as the concept that underneath everyone's veneer lays a decidedly more complex reality. Young also acknowledges the Sex Pistols' front man with the rhetorical question "*Is this the story of Johnny Rotten?*", adding "*It's better to burn out 'cause rust never sleeps.*"



Danny and The Juniors

The famous line "*It's better to burn out than it is to rust*" is often credited to Young's friend Jeff Blackburn. That line has become one of the most famous song lyrics of all time. Kurt Cobain's suicide note contained that line. When Young was asked by Time magazine in 2005 about the line and Cobain's death, he said: "*The fact that he left the lyrics to my song right there with him when he killed himself left a profound feeling on me, but I don't think he was saying I have to kill myself because I don't want to fade away. I don't think he was interpreting the song in a negative way. It's a song about artistic survival, and I think he had a problem with the fact that he thought he was selling out, and he didn't know how to stop it. He was forced to do tours when he didn't want to, forced into all kinds of stuff.*"



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The Ducks (Mosley,Craviotto,Blackburn,Young)

Cobain's death was an epiphany of a different sort, one that not only left the second punk movement in a state of emotional disarray, but turned the dark bravado of Young's lyric into the stuff of tragedy. It's no wonder, then, that the incident casts a shadow across Young's new album, 'Sleeps with Angels'. It isn't just that the title song addresses Cobain's suicide in much the same way that "My My, Hey Hey" deals with the end of the Sex Pistols; it's as if the whole album is haunted by the implications of that act.



Kurt Cobain, suicide letter

In the 1986 movie Highlander, the villain Kurgan quotes this song to people inside a church: "*I have something to say! It's better burn out, than to fade away!*"

By this he means to glorify his ongoing perilous battle for immortality as opposed to living a normal humble life. This is quite an obvious metaphor for being a rock star.

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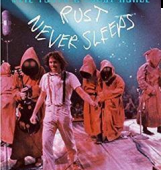
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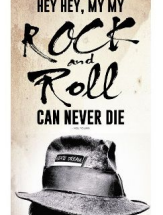
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Battleme - Hey Hey, My My (Sons of Anarchy)