

the screen door slams
mary's dress sways
like a vision she dances across the porch
as the radio plays

roy orbison's singing for the lonely
hey that's me and i want you only
don't turn me home again
i just can't face myself alone again

don't run back inside
darling, you know just what i'm here for
so you're scared and you're thinking
that maybe we ain't that young anymore

show a little faith,
there's magic in the night
you ain't a beauty, but hey you're
alright
yea and that's alright with me...

you can hide 'neath your covers
and study your pain
make crosses from your lovers
throw roses in the rain
waste your summer praying in vain
for a savior to rise from these streets

well now i'm no hero
that's understood
all the redemption i can offer
is beneath this dirty hood
with a chance to make it good somehow
what else can we do now

except roll down the window
and let the wind blow back your hair
well the night's busting open and
these two lanes will take us anywhere

we got one last chance to make it real
trade in these wings on some wheels
climb in back
heaven's waiting down on the tracks

oh-oh come take my hand
we're riding out tonight to case
the promised land
oh-oh thunder road,
oh thunder road, oh thunder road

lying out there like a killer in the sun
hey i know it's late, we can make it if
we run
oh-oh thunder road,
sit tight take hold, thunder road

well i got this guitar
and i learned how to make it talk
and my car's out back
if you're ready to take that long walk

from your front porch to my front seat
the door's open but the ride it ain't free
and i know you're lonely
for words that i ain't spoken
but tonight we'll be free
all the promises'll be broken

there were ghosts in the eyes
of all the boys you sent away
they haunt this dusty beach road
in the skeleton frames of
burned-out chevrolts

they scream your name at night in the
street
your graduation gown lies in rags at
their feet
and in the lonely cool before the dawn
you hear their engines roaring on
but when you get to the
porch they're gone
on the wind, so mary climb in
it's a town full of losers
and i'm pulling out of here to win.

johnny works in a factory
and billy works downtown
terry works in a rock and roll band
looking for that million dollar sound

and i got a little job down in darlington
some nights i don't go
some nights i go to the drive-in
oh, some nights i stay home

i followed that dream
just like those guys do way up on the screen
and i drove my challenger down route nine
through the dead ends and all the bad scenes
and when the promise was broken
i cashed in a few of my dreams

well now i built that challenger by myself
but i needed money and so i sold it
i lived a secret i should've kept to myself
but i got drunk one night and i told it

all my life, i fought this fight
the fight that no man can ever win
every day it just gets harder to live
this dream i'm believing in

thunder road, oh baby, you were so right
thunder road, there's something dying down on the highway tonight

i won big once and i hit the coast
oh but somehow i paid the big cost
inside i felt like i was carrying the broken spirits
of all the other ones who lost

and the promise is broken, you go on living
but it steals something from down in your soul
like when the truth is spoken, and it don't make no difference
something in your heart turns cold

thunder road, for the lost lovers and all the fixed games
thunder road, for the tires rushing by in the rain
thunder road, for me and billy we'd always sing
thunder road, were we gonna take it all and throw it all away.