

Robert Mitchum

"Ballad of thunder road"

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Let me tell the story, I can tell it all
About the mountain boy who ran illegal alcohol
His daddy made the whiskey, son he drove the load
When his engine roared, they called the highway
thunder road
Sometimes into Ashville, sometimes Memphis Town
The revenueurs chased him, but they couldn't run him
down
Each time they thought they had him, his engine would
explode
He'd go by like they were standing still on thunder road

And there was thunder-thunder over thunder road
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his
load
And there was moonshine-moonshine, to quench the
devil's thirst
The law they swore they'd get him, but the devil got
him first

On the first of April, 1954
A federal man sent word, he better make his run no
more
He said 200 agents were covering the state
Which ever road he'd try to take, they'd get him sure as
fate
Son, his daddy told him, make this run your last
The tank is filled with 100 proof, you're all tuned up
and gassed
Don't take any chances, if you can't get through
I'd rather have you back again, than all that mountain
dew

And there was thunder-thunder over thunder road
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his
load
And there was moonshine-moonshine, to quench the
devil's thirst
The law they swore they'd get him, but the devil got
him first

Roaring out of Harlan, revving up his mill
He shot the Gap at Cumberland and screamed by
Maynardville
With G-men on his tale light, roadblocks up ahead
The mountain boy took roads that even angels feared
to tread
Blazing right through Knoxville, out on Kingston Pike
Then right outside of Bearden, there they made the
fatal strike
He left the road at ninety, that's all there is to say
The devil got the moonshine and the mountain boy that
day

And there was thunder-thunder over thunder road
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his
load
And there was moonshine-moonshine, to quench the
devil's thirst
The law they never got him, 'cause the devil got him
first
Law they never got him, 'cause the devil got him first

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