

## Robert Mitchum

# "The Ballad Of Thunder Road"

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Now 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 revenoors 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 standin' still on thunder  
Road.

[Chorus]

And there was thunder, thunder over thunder road  
Thunder was his engine, and white lightning was his  
Load  
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, nineteen fifty-four  
A federal man sent word he'd better make his run no  
More  
He said two hundred agents were coverin' the state  
Whichever road he tried to take, they'd get him sure as  
Fate.  
Son, his daddy told him, make this run your last  
Your tank is filled with hundred-proof,  
You're all tuned up and gassed  
Now, don't take any chances, if you can't get through  
I'd rather have you back again than all that mountain  
Dew

[Chorus]

Roarin' out of harlan, revving' up his mill  
He shot the gap at cumberland,  
And screamed by maynordsville  
With g-men on his taillights, 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 Beardon, 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

[Chorus]

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