

Robert Earl Keen

"The Armadillo Jackal"

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The evening sun was sinkin' down, a chill north wind a-
blows

The new plowed ground was coolin' fast, the river rolls
and flows

Beneath the two lane concrete river bridge between my
place

And town on that hot bed farm to market road they call
1291

I'm sayin' son you'll see me searchin'; sizzlin' down that
broad highway

Dollar signs in both my eyes, I'm seekin' out my prey
I'm prayin', "Jesus, will you send me just another three
or four?"

They pay two-fifty down in Hallettsville, 3 dollars,
maybe more

And more than likely they'll be out tonight a-wanderin'
from the farms

Waddlin' down 1291 to keep their bodies warm
I'm talking walkin' belts and neckties and boots for
rodeo

They don't run too fast, don't waste much gas, I'm
makin' lots o'dough

The armadillo, the armadillo
The armadillo

Never sees me when I hit him with my brights
His life don't pass before his eyes, he's blinded by my
lights

And so I hit him with my bumper doin' sixty, sixty-five
They take 'em frozen down in Hallettsville, they don't
take 'em alive

The jackal cried, the jackal cried
The jackal cried

Look there's two of them a-walkin' down the line
I can't believe my luck tonight this here makes twenty-
nine

And so he rolled the first one runnin', the second was

too fast
His breaks and laughter squealin' as he stomped down
on the gas

Good God, his car was sideways flyin'
When the bridge wall met his door
The impact shook the river bed
His foot went through the floor

Forevermore, forevermore
Forevermore

Was his last moment from the bridge wall to the stream
From the speckled blood around his smile a-spewin'
gasoline
And then he screamed his raspy epitaph before he
turned to flame
They pay two-fifty down in Hallettsville, I ain't the one to
blame

Ain't it a shame, the jackal cried?
The armadillo, the armadillo
The armadillo, the armadillo
The armadillo

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