

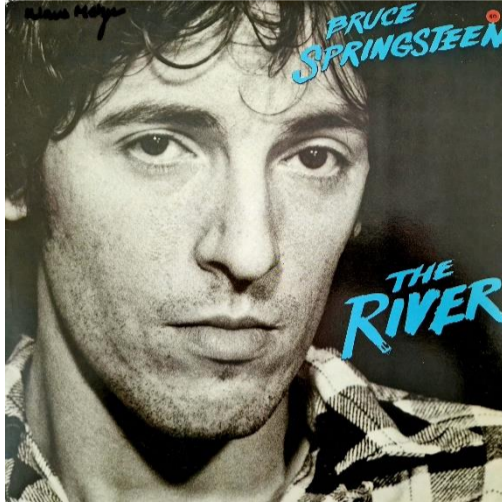
Bruce Springsteen, *The River*

Columbia, 1980

„And I'm driving a stolen car/On a pitch black night/And I'm telling myself I'm gonna be alright/But I ride by night and I travel in fear/That in this darkness I will disappear" (*Stolen Car*)

„Now they'd come so far and they'd waited so long/Just to end up caught in a dream where everything goes wrong." (*The Price You Pay*)

„He went to his grave a broken heart/An unfulfilled life, girl, makes a man hard." (*I Wanna Marry You*)



After the century-albums *Born to Run* and *Darkness* a double album, originally conceived more concisely: With this release there was hardly any room left for other music than that of the "Boss" from New Jersey. In 2003 Rolling Stone magazine ranked the album at #250.

Nach den Jahrhundertalben *Born to Run* und *Darkness* ein Doppelalbum, ursprünglich knapper konzipiert: Mit dieser Veröffentlichung war kaum mehr Platz für andere Musik als der des „Boss“ aus New Jersey. Der Rolling Stone listete das Album 2003 auf Platz 250.

Bruce Springsteen's *The River* is a contemporary, New Jersey version of *The Grapes of Wrath*, with the Tom Joad/Henry Fonda figure – nowadays no longer able to draw upon the solidarity of family – driving a stolen car through a neon Dust Bowl "in fear/That in this darkness I will disappear". Quite often, he does. [...] What makes *The River* really special is Bruce Springsteen's epic exploration of the second acts of American lives. Because he realizes that most of our todays are the tragicomic sum of a scattered series of yesterdays that had once hoped to become better tomorrows, he can fuse past and present, desire and destiny, laughter and longing, and have death or glory emerge as more than just another story. By utilizing the vast cast of characters he's already established on the earlier LPs – and by putting a spin on the time span – Springsteen forces his heroes and heroines into seeing themselves at different and crucial periods in their lives. The connections are infinite (and, some would say, repetitious). [...] (Rolling Stone Review by Paul Nelson, December 11, 1980)

[Bruce Springsteen: Albums](#)

[Rolling Stone: Album Review by Paul Nelson](#)

[Rolling Stone: The Ties That Bind by Arne Willander](#)

[Wikipedia: Bruce Springsteen: The River](#)

[Pitchfork: The Ties That Bind - The River Collection](#)