

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Måneskin's 'Beggin'

Uno dei primi successi in lingua inglese del quartetto romano è questa versione che prende spunto da un'altra versione di una canzone degli anni Sessanta, dal testo disperato, che i Måneskin interpretano in chiave rock.

You probably know that Måneskin's track¹ *Beggin'*² is a cover, but did you know that the original is over fifty years old? It was, in fact, a hit single for American soul group Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons back in³ 1967, forty years before Norwegian group Madcon turned it into a huge⁴ hip-hop success in 2007. Fast-forward⁵ ten years to 2017 and Rome band Måneskin were contestants on the Italian edition of the *X-Factor* talent show. One of their performances was a rock version of the Madcon hit, which they then re-recorded for their debut EP *Chosen*. They finished the show in second place, but victory awaited⁶ them at the Sanremo Music Festival and, of course, at the Eurovision Song Contest⁷, where over 183 million viewers⁸

in fifty-four countries were watching. Suddenly⁹ the group were international superstars. *Beggin'* went viral on TikTok and topped¹⁰ the Spotify global chart. Lyrically the song is a heartfelt¹¹ plea¹² to the singer's ex-romantic partner to return to him, using the present continuous "I'm beggin'" and the imperative "put" in the chorus. When the couple were together, he ignored his partner's warning¹³ not to walk away, only later to realise¹⁴ that being alone, his life has lost¹⁵ its meaning. There is a barrage¹⁶ of questions as he pleads with¹⁷ his loved one to return. ☺



UPPER INTERMEDIATE B2

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GLOSSARY

- 1 track: brano
- 2 to beg: supplicare
- 3 back in: nel lontano
- 4 huge: enorme
- 5 to fast-forward: mandare avanti
- 6 to await: aspettare
- 7 contest: competizione
- 8 viewers: spettatori
- 9 suddenly: improvvisamente
- 10 to top: essere in cima
- 11 heartfelt: accorato
- 12 plea: appello
- 13 to warn: avvisare
- 14 to realise: rendersi conto
- 15 to lose: perdere
- 16 barrage: raffica
- 17 to plead with: supplicare
- 18 to bleed: sanguinare
- 19 empty shell: guscio vuoto
- 20 to hang over: pendere su
- 21 to embrace: accogliere, accettare
- 22 to attach: attaccare
- 23 to fade to black: fare una dissolvenza a nero

to ride high: to experience success.

on my knees: although it's probably literal here, this can also be a metaphor for being weak.

the shadow of my life: this suggests he realises the consequences of the mistake he has made.

What we doing? What we chasing: the singer incorrectly omits the verb 'to be' for the rhythm.

the call is yours: this idiom means 'it is your decision'.

keep calls on hold: during a phone call, when one of the speakers switches to another line without totally disconnecting the first one. It plays with the meaning of 'call' also as a decision.

'bout: an often-used abbreviation of 'about'.

Put your loving hand out, baby
'Cause I'm beggin'

(Chorus)
I'm beggin', beggin' you
So, put your loving hand out, baby
I'm beggin', beggin' you
So, put your loving hand out, darling

Riding high, when I was king
I played it hard and fast, 'cause I had everything
I walked away, but you warned me then
But easy come, and easy go, and it would end

So, any time I bleed¹⁸, you let me go
Yeah, any time I feed, you get me know
Any time I seek, you let me know
But I plan and see, just let me go

I'm on my knees while I'm beggin'
'Cause I don't want to lose you
Hey yeah, ratatata

'Cause I'm beggin', beggin' you
And put your loving hand out, baby
I'm beggin', beggin' you
And put your loving hand out, darling

I need you to understand
Tried so hard to be your man
The kind of man you want in the end
Only then can I begin to live again

An empty shell¹⁹
I used to be
The shadow of my life was hanging over²⁰ me

A broken man
That I don't know
Won't even stand the devil's chance to win my soul

What we doing? What we chasing?
Why the bottom? Why the basement?
Why we got good shit, don't embrace²¹ it?
Why the feel for the need to replace me?
You're the wrong way track from the good
I want to paint a picture telling where we could be at
Like a heart ain't attached²² the way it should
You can give it away, you had, and you took the pay

But I keep walking on
Keep opening doors
Keep hoping for
That the call is yours
Keep calls on hold

'Cause I don't wanna live in a broken home
Girl, I'm begging

Mmm, ye-e-e-ah
I'm beggin', beggin' you
So, put your loving hand out, baby
I'm beggin', beggin' you
So, put your loving hand out, darling

I'm fighting hard
To hold my own
Just can't make it all alone
I'm holding on

I can't fall back
I'm just a calm 'bout to fade to black²³

(Chorus)

easy come, and easy go: this idiom means that something that is achieved easily is also lost as easily.

the devil's chance: no chance.

wrong way track: to be 'on the wrong track' means to do something in a way that will bring bad results.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.



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