

Shake, Rattle and Roll (1954)

Big Joe Turner and His Blues Kings

LISTEN FOR

- Jump blues style
- Laid-back metric feel
 - Boogie-woogie shuffle groove in piano
 - Walking bass
 - Heavy backbeat in snare drum, hand claps
- Hokum blues lyrics with sexual innuendo

CREATION

Songwriters Jesse Stone [pseudonymously as Charles Calhoun] (lyrics, music)

Label, Record Atlantic 1026

Musicians piano, saxes, guitar, bass drums, lead vocals

Producer Ahmet Ertegun, Jerry Wexler

Engineer

Recording [Studio], New York City, February 1954; mono

Charts R&B 1, Pop 22

MUSIC

Genre R&B

Form Simple verse-chorus (12-bar blues)

Key E-flat

Meter 12/8 (shuffle in 4)

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boogie-woogie Piano featured. Note the rolling rhythmic feel of the shuffle groove.

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underpinned by walking bass line and heavy back beat in snare drum and hand claps.
0:07	Verse 1 (12)	"Get outta that bed"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocal enters and remains main focus. Saxophone fills at ends of vocal lines.
0:25	Verse 2 (12)	"Way you were those dress"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story begins to unfold.
0:44	Verse 3 (12)	"I believe to the soul"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New horn line.
1:02	Chorus (12)	"I said shake, rattle and roll"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears at first to be a fourth verse with a sing-along type text.
1:21	Instr. Verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz-style sax solo.
1:40	Verse 4 (12)	"I'm like a one-eyed cat"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger sexual innuendo.
1:58	Chorus (12)	"Ah, shake, rattle and roll"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now the connection to a chorus is stronger.
2:17	Verse 5 (12)	"I get over the hill"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innuendo almost becomes explicit. Horn parts from verse 3 return.
2:36	Chorus (12)	"I said shake, rattle and roll"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly this is the chorus. Saxophone quote the end of Ellington's "Take the 'A' Train"

LYRICS

Get outta that bed, wash your face and hands
 Get outta that bed, wash your face and hands
 Well, you get in that kitchen, make some noise with the
 pots and pans

Way you wear those dresses, the sun comes shinin'
 through
 Way you wear those dresses, the sun comes shinin'
 through
 I can't believe my eyes, all that mess belongs to you

I believe to the soul, you're the devil and now I know
 I believe to the soul, you're the devil and now I know
 Well, the more I work, the faster my money goes

I said shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Well, you won't do right, to save your doggone soul

Yeah, blow, Joe

I'm like a one-eyed cat, peepin' in a seafood store
 I'm like a one-eyed cat, peepin' in a seafood store
 Well, I can look at you, till you ain't no child no more

Ah, shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Well, you won't do right, to save your doggone soul

I get over the hill, and way down underneath
 I get over the hill, and way down underneath
 You make me roll my eyes, even make me grit my teeth

I said shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Shake, rattle and roll, shake, rattle and roll
 Well, you won't do nothin', to save your doggone soul

Shake, rattle and roll

SOURCES

- Joseph Schloss, Larry Starr, and Christopher Waterman, *Rock: Music, Culture, and Business* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 40.
- Katherine Charlton, *Rock Music Styles: A History*, 6th ed. (New York: McGraw Hill, 2011), 46.
- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound?* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), 69–71.
- <http://www.songlyrics.com/joe-turner/shake-rattle-roll-lyrics/>