

## That'll Be the Day (1957)

### The Crickets

#### LISTEN FOR

- Holly's country-influenced vocal style
- Rockabilly shuffle groove
- Instrumental break based on 12-bar blues
- Innocent lyrics lacking bravado or innuendo

#### CREATION

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<i>Songwriters</i>	Buddy Holly, Jerry Allison, Norman Petty (music, lyrics)
<i>Label, Record</i>	Brunswick 55009
<i>Musicians</i>	Buddy Holly (electric guitar, lead vocal), Niki Sullivan (electric guitar), Larry Welborn (acoustic bass), Jerry Allison (drums)
<i>Producer</i>	Norman Petty
<i>Recording</i>	Norman Petty Recording Studio (Clovis, NM); February 1957; mono
<i>Charts</i>	Pop 1, R&B 2

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#### MUSIC

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<i>Genre</i>	Rock 'n' Roll
<i>Form</i>	Contrasting verse-chorus
<i>Key</i>	A major
<i>Meter</i>	12/8 (shuffle in 4)

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#### LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (2)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country-style guitar solo</li></ul>
0:04	Chorus (8)	"Well, that'll be the day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong shuffle groove in rockabilly rhythm section.</li><li>• Back-up vocals</li></ul>
0:19	Verse 1 (8)	"Well, you give me"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holly's twang and vocal hiccup are especially pronounced.</li></ul>

0:34	Chorus (8)	"Well, that'll be the day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before.</li> </ul>
0:49	Instr. break (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12-bar blues</li> <li>Notice Holly's riff-based guitar solo in phrase 1.</li> </ul>
1:12	Chorus (8)	"Well, that'll be the day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before.</li> </ul>
1:27	Verse 2 (8)	"Well, when Cupid shot"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before</li> </ul>
1:42	Chorus (8)	"Well, that'll be the day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before</li> </ul>
1:58	Close (8)	"Well, that'll be the day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on chorus</li> </ul>

## LYRICS

Well, that'll be the day, when you say goodbye  
 Yes, that'll be the day, when you make me cry  
 You say you're gonna leave, you know it's a lie  
 'Cause that'll be the day when I die

Well, you give me all your lovin' and your turtle  
 dovin'  
 All your hugs and kisses and your money too  
 Well, you know you love me baby  
 Until you tell me, maybe  
 That someday, well I'll be through

Well, that'll be the day, when you say goodbye  
 Yes, that'll be the day, when you make me cry  
 You say you're gonna leave, you know it's a lie  
 'Cause that'll be the day when I die

Well, that'll be the day, when you say goodbye  
 Yes, that'll be the day, when you make me cry

You say you're gonna leave, you know it's a lie  
 'Cause that'll be the day when I die

Well, when Cupid shot his dart  
 He shot it at your heart  
 So if we ever part and I leave you  
 You sit and hold me and you tell me boldly  
 That someday, well I'll be blue

Well, that'll be the day, when you say goodbye  
 Yes, that'll be the day, when you make me cry  
 You say you're gonna leave, you know it's a lie  
 'Cause that'll be the day when I die

Well, that'll be the day, hoo-hoo  
 That'll be the day, hoo-hoo  
 That'll be the day, hoo-hoo  
 That'll be the day

## SOURCES

- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound?* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), 18.
- Joseph Schloss, Larry Starr, and Christopher Waterman, *Rock: Music, Culture, and Business* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 66–67.
- <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/buddyholly/thatllbetheday.html>