

Paul Kelly - One Night The Moon

One night the moon came sailing by
On a big ship right across the night sky
One night the moon came sailing by
Called all the dreamers to come for a ride

One night the moon came wheeling by
On a big bike right across the night sky
One night the moon came wheeling by
Called all the sleepers to come for a ride

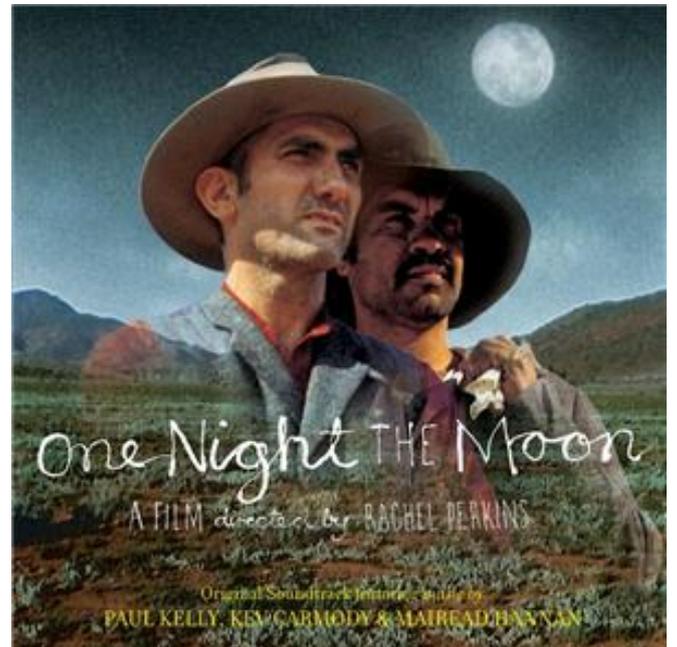
One night the moon came galloping by
On a big horse right across the night sky
One night the moon came galloping by
Called all the dreamers to come for a ride

One night the moon came choo-chooing by
On a big train right across the sky
One night the moon came choo-chooing by
Called all the sleepers to come for a ride

One night the moon came rolling by
In a big cart right across the night sky
One night the moon came rolling by
Called all the dreamers to come for a ride

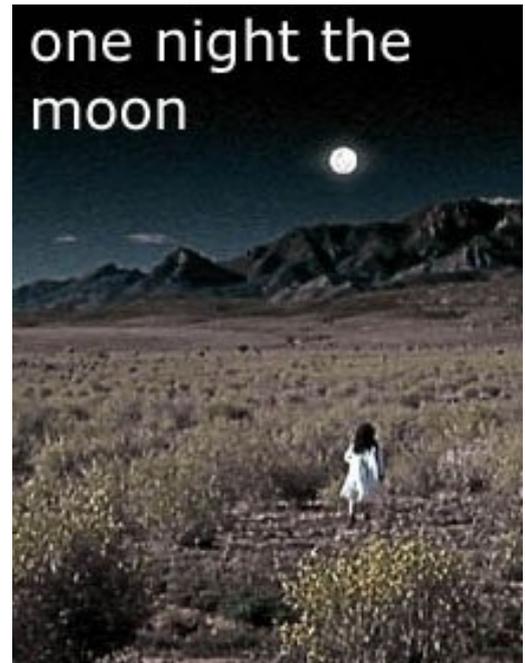
Lyrics provided by LyricsMode.com

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The following is an extract from the final shooting script of One Night The Moon © 2001 MusicArtsDance films Pty Ltd. The credits for this scene are: writers John Romeril and Rachel Perkins; lyrics Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly (Publishing Administered by Mushroom Music); music Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly. It is published here with the kind permission of the film's producers.

The following scene takes place the morning after the Child (Memphis Kelly) has gone missing. A search party is being put together at the Father's (Paul Kelly) property. He bluntly refuses the inclusion of an Aboriginal man, Albert (Kelton Pell), to partake in the search despite the invaluable tool of 'tracking' that he brings. At this point, the scene gives way to the song "This Land is Mine/This Land is Me", which melodically and thematically positions the Father and Albert as opposite counterpoints to each other. It's a highlight of the film.



31. EXT FARMHOUSE DAWN

FADE UP FROM BLACK

The sun rises over the Flinders.

The roadside is a scatter of parked cars and trucks. Here cooking fires are being tended. Men are washing themselves, checking equipment and supplies. One crawls from where he slept, under a truck. Others emerge from tents and swags.

The extent of the scene is sampled. It's like an overnight temporary city has sprung up. A fifty strong search party of VOLUNTEERS has gathered at the farm.

The MOTHER is pouring tea from a big pot for VOLUNTEERS from the verandah. The SEARGENT approaches her. The MOTHER pours him tea. He and the MOTHER watch as the FATHER arrives and dismounts from his horse.

MOTHER
Cup of tea.?

The FATHER walks past her to the SEARGENT.

FATHER
We going to sit around having tea all day or we going to get going?

The SERGEANT takes in the surrounding countryside. A car is approaching in the distance.

SERGEANT

Now that Albert's arrived, yes, we can begin.

They watch as the car pulls up and ALBERT and ALLMAN get out of the car. ALBERT is now also in police uniform. The MOTHER goes to the FATHER.

ALBERT waits a moment, notes the open windows of the house. He looks up toward the sun, just rising over the mountain range and tilts down from that toward the house where he finally notices the parents talking together, obviously about him. ALBERT and ALLMAN walk toward the house.

The MOTHER looks apprehensively at the FATHER as he watches them approach. The SEARGENT walks down the stairs to meet them.

SERGEANT
Morning

ALBERT
Mornin' Sergeant

SERGEANT
This is Jim Ryan

ALBERT nods up at the FATHER standing up on the veranda, but the FATHER does not respond. ALLMAN notes their cold response.

SERGEANT
Their little girl is missing, disappeared sometime between ten and one last night, has therefore been gone approximately six hours. Probably run off or possibly taken . see if you can get a track and direction, we'll follow you and ALLMAN from there.

ALBERT
Right.

FATHER (to SEARGENT)
Hang on a minute.I don't think we'll be needing his (ALBERT'S) services.

SERGEANT
Albert is a police officer and also a highly skilled blacktracker

The FATHER gives the MOTHER a look. She drops the kettle and goes inside

FATHER
Listen sergeant, my daughter is out there and I'm not having some blackfella leading the search party

SERGEANT
You've been up all night, you're not thinking straight

FATHER
It's my daughter and my station and I'll decide who can be on my land..

The FATHER waits for someone to question his authority.no one does.

FATHER
.alright.

The FATHER walks down the steps past ALBERT and ALLMAN. The SEARGENT turns to ALBERT.

SERGEANT
OK Allman, get the men ready and get ALBERT off the property.

ALLMAN
But a mob this big'll wipe out just about every track that kid's.. (left)

The SEARGENT cuts him off.

SERGEANT
My hands are tied

The FATHER standing with the assembled VOLUNTEERS calls out to the SEARGENT.

FATHER
Are we ever gonna get this circus rolling?

He is staring hard at the SEARGENT, but shifts his focus to ALLMAN.

FATHER
Or are we gonna stand round yakking all day?

SERGEANT
We're on the move

The FATHER moves off with the SEARGENT. ALBERT and ALLMAN watch them, taking note of their feet as they kick up dust and destroy any tracks that were left.

ALLMAN
I don't believe this..

ALBERT stands silent. He has no choice but to accept his orders. ALLMAN reluctantly walks off to join the others

The SERGEANT orders the men into a line. ALBERT who is left standing at the garden fence takes all this activity in. He looks toward the FATHER.

32. EXT THE BACK PADDOCK DAY

MUSIC: This Land Is Mine

The VOLUNTEERS form up in a rough semi-circle. The FATHER sensing ALBERT's gaze, turns his back on him to look out across the paddock. He finishes saddling his horse.

FATHER

This land is mine
All the way to the old fence line
Every break of day
I'm working hard just to make it pay

This land is mine
Yeah I signed on the dotted line
Camp fires on the creek bank
Bank breathing down my neck

They won't take it away
They won't take it away
They won't take it away from me

The FATHER mounts his horse.

33. EXT BACK FENCE DAY

Meanwhile ALBERT has been grabbing his swag and now walks off in the other direction.

ALBERT

This land is me
Rock, water, animal, tree
They are my song
My being's here where I belong

He looks back at the search party.

ALBERT

This land owns me
From generations past to infinity
We're all but woman and man
You only fear what you don't understand

34. EXT VERANDAH DAY

The MOTHER watches both men.

FATHER AND ALBERT

This land is mine
This land is me
This land is mine
This land owns me

ALBERT walks off down the road.

FATHER AND ALBERT

They won't take it away
They won't take it away
They won't take it away from me

The TRACKER looks back toward the house and sees the MOTHER at the window looking out at him.

35. EXT VERANDAH DAY

MUSIC: This Land Is Mine ends

The MOTHER shuts EMILY's bedroom window, closes the curtains and sits down on the bed.

END OF EXTRACT

This Land is Mine

Structured like a dialogue, this song contrasts the white farmer's possessiveness of his farm with the aboriginal tracker's conception of the land. While the farmer is worried about making the land productive, the tracker sees the whole landscape as part of his being. Both speakers share a fear of dispossession.

- How does Kelly's interchanging use of the two voices affect the viewer? How is this echoed in the instruments used in this song?
- What does the title immediately reveal to the reader?
- What is the tone adopted by the voice in the first two stanzas?
- What is revealed by the farmer's references to his land? What effect did fences have on traditional use of the land?
- What is ironic about the use of the word "old" in "the old fence line"?
- What does the farmer mean when he says "I'm working hard just to make it pay"? what does this further reveal about how the white farmer uses the land?
- To what does the farmer refer when he says "I signed on the dotted line"?
- Examine the use of imagery in the next two lines: "Campfires on the creek bed / Bank breathing down my neck." What is the effect of Kelly juxtaposing these two lines?
- What does the tracker's use of language reveal about his relationship with the land?
- The 4th stanza is the only one beginning with a new line. Why do you think this is?
- To whom is the tracker speaking in line four of stanza four?
- What is the effect of the final three lines ?
- What is the main message?