

[13 Darling One – Cracker/Adam Duritz/Susanna Hoffs/Mark Linkous: A Sunny Song/A Shady Backstory](#)

This song appears on the latest Cracker Album “Sunrise In The Land of Milk and Honey” (2009). But the song is quite old. It was written by Mark Linkous and I in 1993 or 1994. Perhaps it is fitting that this pretty song appears on a Cracker album that is about things being not what they seem. The sun comes up and in the light of day there is a bit of a reckoning. I’m not talking about the song itself. The song is an innocent bystander. The tiny seed of negativity is in the backstory. It involves some shady business dealings with this song.



MARK LINKOUS

But first let’s talk about the song. The song itself is on the surface a simple love song. It rocks but has an undertone of soul to the the arrangement. At least the Cracker version. Marks original version reminded me more of something from one of Neil Youngs rock records.

Not much to say about the story in the song except it is one in which the protagonist wishes to relieve his loves emotional burdens. Of course there is a deeper meaning. Mark Linkous is really speaking about himself. He wishes he could stop “looking for something that’s not lost”. He wants the burden of his depression, the gnawing dissatisfaction and unhappiness lifted from his soul.

Mark wrote the majority of this song. The body of the song. I wrote the chorus which is quite small and inconsequential in the scheme of the song.



THE PUBLICITY ADVERSE DENNIS HERRING. PHOTO APPARENTLY TAKEN WITH BUTTON HOLE CAMERA.

Shortly after Mark finished the song, my friend and producer [Dennis Herring](#) was looking for someone to fill out a band and co-write with Susanna Hoffs. I don’t remember if he had already met Mark or if he knew of Mark from the working tapes of the first Sparklehorse record. But somehow Mark made his way to Los Angeles and began recording with Susanna Hoffs and former Cracker bass player Davey Faragher. Eventually Dennis was fired from the project along with Mark Linkous. I have tapes of some of the songs. It’s actually a nice raw Indie/Folky recording. Later the album was re-recorded with Matt Wallace and Jack Joseph Puig (or JJP as he insisted he be called when i met him?!). I don’t know which of the pair fucked up the Susanna Hoffs version of the song that comes out on the 1996 *Susanna Hoffs*. But someone did. But as usual I digress.



SUSANNA HOFFS AND HER HAIR. HEY IT WAS THE 80's!

Hunter S. Thompson was purported to have said “The music business is a long plastic hallway, a shallow money trench, a place where pimps and thieves run free, where good men die like dogs. And then there is a negative side”. Whether he actually said that is open to debate. Throughout most of my music career i’ve been artful and guarded enough to not get ripped off. To not get ripped off by the “pimps and thieves” That is why it was such a shock to me to when recently i went to look up the publishing information for this song. Look what i found:

Work Title: DARLING ONE			
Alternate Title:			
BMI Work #: 4135969		ISWC:	
Date Registered: 09/30/1997		Registration Origin: Works Registration	
Songwriter/Composer	Current Affiliation	Shares	CAE/IPI #
FARAGHER DAVEY	BMI	10%	00180126202
HOFFS SUSANNA LEE	BMI	40%	00130116829
LOWERY DAVID C	BMI	10%	00553308560
LINKOUS MARK	ASCAP	40%	00336614467

WTF? forget the fact that i only ended up with 10% of the song. How did Mark Linkous end up with only 40%. The song was written when he took it to Susanna Hoffs. And my old bandmate Davey Faragher grabbed 10% and he wasn't anywhere near the song either. I'm sorry but someone has some explaining to do. There will be a reckoning.

The Cracker track was recorded mostly in Richmond at Sound of Music. It was at first gonna go on my solo record. So it's mostly the studio house band on the recording. Miguel Rodriguez-Rrbiztondo on drums. David Immergluck on bass and guitar. Craig Harmon on organ, all my favorite girls on backing vox (Kristin Hott, Shannon Worrell plus Brooke Fauver) and of course Johnny Hickman on lead. Later It seemed that the record company would prefer it be a Cracker song. So it became a Cracker song. It already had me and Johnny on it anyway, so in our mind that made it a Cracker song.

Oh and that guy from Counting Crows, sings with me on this song. David immergluck's old roommate?... Can't remember his name...



ADAM DURITZ AND HIS HAIR. HEY IT WAS... JUST LAST WEEK!!

Seriously. It was super sweet for Adam Duritz to sing this song with me. He's always been such a loyal friend and a huge Cracker fan. It also made a difference in the sales of this song.



[Darling One performed by Cracker](#)

[Darling One. Mark Linkous with Susanna Hoffs. Dennis Herring Recording](#)

[Darling One- Susanna Hoffs-Album version with JJP or MW](#)