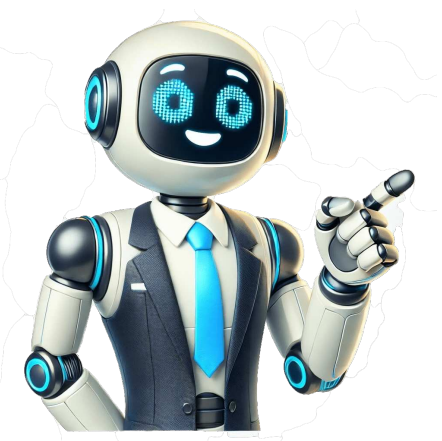


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Listen to crash test dummies mmm mmm mmm mmm

Sorry! Something went wrong Is your network connection unstable or browser outdated? Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm was released in October 1993 as one of the singles from God Shuffled His Feet. Through three seemingly disconnected stories, it explores themes of childhood loneliness and isolation, stemming from children’s difficulty in understanding and accepting strange things. It became (one of) Crash Test Dummies' most successful song, peaking at the top of many charts in Australia, Germany, and the U.S. and hitting the top five spots in countries like the U.K. The song was so popular that even Weird Al Yankovic did a parody titled Headline News. Sorry! Something went wrong Is your network connection unstable or browser outdated? Sorry! Something went wrong Is your network connection unstable or browser outdated? This song tells the story of three children whose strange experiences seem normal to them. Each verse is centered around one of these children, each of whom was based on someone lead singer Brad Roberts knew, or on his own personal experience. Roberts, who wrote the song, broke it down in a Songfacts interview. We'll start with the first verse, about a kid whose hair turned white after getting in an accident. Said Roberts:"The child in the first verse, that story came from a combination of events. I was in a couple of bad car accidents when I was a little kid, so I was fascinated by them in kind of a distanced way by the time I wrote the song. But they made an impression on me. And I had heard a story about a guy who was also in an accident, only in this case, on a boat that was in Niagara Falls. The boat was going towards the Falls, so the people could see it as closely as they could, and then it turns away. Now, you have to turn away before you get carried off over the Falls! This guy made a miscalculation, and it looked like they were going to not make it back, and he realized, 'F---k... I'm going to die!'It turned out that the boat did not go over the edge, and he was able to get back. But his hair turned from black into bright white. His whole head. And since then - although this didn't inspire the song - I heard other cases of that happening, including my great uncle, who was dug in on an island near Japan during World War II and spent a night entrenched, listening to the Japanese crying out in their broken English what they would do to him when they caught him. And he was terrified. In his case, just a portion of his hair turned white. So anyway, that's where that came from, in the first verse.But the idea was this kid had something that made him stand out. And of course, when you're a little kid, if you're different, it's a problem. I don't know what it's like now, but when I was a little kid, anything that made you different made you a target: a target for abuse, a target for bullying, a target for humiliation. And that's the case with the kid whose hair turned bright white."The second verse is about a girl with "birthmarks all over her body." Said Roberts: "I actually have a birthmark at the base of my spine, which I was teased about a great deal when I was a little kid. It was a physical marking that made me different, and that made me the target of verbal abuse and teasing and bullying. So, that was really grown from an autobiographical part of my life."The third verse is about a boy who is not physically different, but goes through an unusual religious ritual. The real inspiration was a girl, but Brad Roberts made her a boy for the lyric. He explained: "This girl that I knew, her parents were Pentecostal Christians, and they used to take her to church every week and do what they call 'speaking in tongues.' When Pentecostal Christians get together every Sunday, some of them are moved to speak spontaneously. They claim that the spirit has entered their body and what they are saying is simply a transmission of that spirit. It's not themselves speaking anymore, it is the holy word of God speaking through them. And the language that comes out, sometimes it's an ordinary language, but quite often it sounds like gibberish. For my friend, as a little child going to school, she found this terrifying, needless to say, because her parents were the people that ran her life. Every kid has those parental figures, and they seemed to lose their minds. They seemed to just become different people, and it really terrified her. It made a big mark on her, emotionally. It was a scarring experience, I would say."The Crash Test Dummies are Canadian. Formed in Winnipeg, they started as a cover group while lead singer Brad Roberts studied to be a professor of English literature. Roberts played guitar in the group but did not sing because he thought his voice was terrible. When he started writing songs, he realized that he was the only one who could sing them with the delivery he was after, so he decided to give it a try. A vocal coach convinced him that he had a good, distinctive voice, and his deep baritone became the group's hallmark. It's especially pronounced on this track, with a guttural humming sound suited to his voice.In 2000, Roberts was nearly killed in a car accident, but escaped with a broken arm before his car exploded. The band is named after the devices used to test the effects of car accidents on humans. They once toured with Alanis Morissette, who might consider this ironic. This was a success on the Adult Album Alternative (AAA) format that was gaining momentum at the time. Other artists who found success there are the Cranberries and Counting Crows.This was the group's breakthrough hit in America, but they were already well known in their native Canada thanks to their 1991 debut album, which took off there thanks to the track "Superman's Song," which reached #4 there but only made #56 in America. That album, The Ghosts That Haunt Me, sold 400,000 copies in Canada, but when their next album, God Shuffled His Feet, was released in 1993, it got an icy reception up north even though hit contained "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm."According to Roberts, the Winnipeg Free Press published a scathing review that pretty much tanked the album. "Canada - being the country that loves to eat its own - decided we weren't going to have any success at all," he told Songfacts.But in America, a radio station in Atlanta, Georgia played "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" and it got a huge response. Other stations added it to their playlists, and it started selling in stores. Their record company, Arista, sprung into action, sending them on tour in that country and setting up scads of promotional appearances to promote the song. Eventually, it climbed to #4 and went Gold for sales of 500,000 copies.By this time, "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" had run its course in Canada, peaking at a meager #14. So another song from the album, "Swimming In Your Ocean," was issued there, reaching #6.Talking Heads guitarist Jerry Harrison produced this. He has also produced other modern rock artists like Stroke 9, Live and No Doubt.Between the title and the unconventional vocals, disc jockeys made lots of jokes about this when they played it. Some said it sounded like "Sylvester Stallone on Quaaludes."As a result of this song, The Crash Test Dummies were nominated for a Best New Artist Grammy in 1994, even though they formed in the late '80s and released their first album in 1991. They lost to Sheryl Crow.This has the longest title of any popular song made up of one letter repeated. >> Suggestion credit: Adam - Wrexham, Wales The video, directed by Dale Heslip, shows children acting out the stories in the song in a rather surreal play as parents look on uncomfortably.Like black licorice or the Grateful Dead, people tend to either love this or hate it. Despite its popularity, VH1 named it one of the "Top 50 worst songs of the '90s," outraging fans of the song. >> Suggestion credit: Ricky - Cabot, AR The Crash Test Dummies once played at the MuchMusic awards singing "Weird Al" Yankovic's parody, "Headline News" with Yankovic. They both played the music and Brad Roberts sang in his low low voice. The Weird Al version calls for the sound of kazoo's right at the end. Al wasn't expecting to have this feature live on stage when singing with Roberts, but was pleasantly surprised when all the Crash Test Dummies suddenly whipped out kazoo's and started "quacking" through the end of the song. >> Suggestion credit: Jason - Wairoa, New Zealand Surprisingly, this wasn't the only "mmm" hit of the '90s. In 1997, Hanson's "MMMBop" was everywhere, and we were powerless to resist. Sorry! Something went wrong Is your network connection unstable or browser outdated? Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. 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