



**Billy Joel**  
*'The Stranger'*

**About Billy & the album**

Born May 9th, 1949, in Bronx, New York and raised in Long Island. Joel is an American singer-songwriter and pianist. Oftenly known for most popular song 'Piano Man' 1973. He was guided toward classical music by his parents and began piano lessons when he was 14. His fifth album '*The Stranger*' was released in September 1977. Joel decided to make an album about his paranoid obsession with change and wanted the new album to feature his touring band. The band consisted of bassist Doug Stegmeyer, saxophonist/organist Richie Cannata, and drummer Liberty DeVitto

### ***Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)***

One of my favourite songs of his, the story of this song starts with a boy named 'Anthony' works in a grocery store. Meanwhile, Sergeant O'Leary works two jobs just so he can upgrade his vehicle, "*Yeah, and he's tradin' in his Chevy For a Cadillac*" during the chorus, Joel declares he's not on the same page with these views "*Mama, if that's movin' up then I'm movin' out.*"

### ***The Stranger***

The album title track, *The Stranger* didn't have an intro when Billy Joel began it. He couldn't quite come up with an idea for the start. He whistled as an example of something that could be mimicked on an instrument. Phil Ramone (recording engineer and producer) realized that was it.



### ***Just the Way You Are***

Joel felt like this song was a "gloppy ballad" to be played at weddings. It didn't sound like the rest of the album and he thought about not putting it on. Though, three of his coworkers and friends convinced him to.

One of my favourites on this album for sure, it has a good message.

### ***Scenes from an Italian Restaurant***

This song is a glimpse into the tale of Brenda and Eddie, the prom king and queen who eventually get married, but it also portrays the unraveling of their relationship.

I love the mood of this song and the saxophone solos.

### ***Vienna***

Since I was a young girl I've listened to and loved this song, it has given me a lot of hope, to not rush my life.

It's a metaphor about old age, about growing up and taking things as they come.



### ***Only the Good Die Young***

This song is a boy-wants-girl song with a bit of a religious twist. A boy who wants the Catholic girl. Apparently, not everyone liked this song and found the lyrics controversial.

### ***She's Always a Woman***

My absolute favourite song on this album. This song is about his wife also being his manager for a period of time and how that to many maybe a 'manly thing' for a woman to do. He expresses that "well she may be all those things to you, but she's always a woman to me."

### ***Get It Right the First Time***

This song is the closest that Billy ever came to doing a disco song. It's about wanting to make a good first impression when you meet someone for the very first time. You will not get a second chance of doing something for the first time, so seize the moment, and do it right.

### ***Everybody Has a Dream***

The last track of the album. Joel says "That was actually written a long time prior to *The Stranger*, and it was written as a folk song. We redid the approach like a Joe Cocker gospel thing. It just felt like a great way to sum up the album, sort of a gospel celebration."

Personally, I really enjoy this song and I think it's a great way to end this album, great mood.



**Music videos;**

“Scenes from an Italian Restaurant”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izzM9LXqP-U> - 2022

“Vienna” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jL4S4X97sQ> - 2024