We are the ants shaun david hutchinson Online PDF

We Are the Ants Shaun David Hutchinson is a compelling young adult novel that delves into themes of time travel, existentialism, mental health, and the struggles of adolescence. Written by Shaun David Hutchinson, a renowned author celebrated for his thought-provoking stories, this book has captivated readers worldwide with its unique narrative and profound messages. Whether you're a fan of contemporary fiction or seeking a thought-provoking read, understanding what makes "We Are the Ants" an essential addition to the young adult genre is crucial. This comprehensive guide explores the book?s plot, themes, characters, and why it continues to resonate with readers, making it an invaluable resource for fans and newcomers alike.

Overview of "We Are the Ants"

Synopsis

"We Are the Ants" follows the story of Henry Denton, a teenage boy grappling with the loss of his sister, his own mental health struggles, and questions about the meaning of life. The narrative takes a unique turn when Henry is approached by an alien entity named the Plague, which offers him a choice: either press a button to save the world from an impending catastrophe or let the world end. As Henry navigates this dilemma, he also confronts his personal grief, his sexuality, and his desire to find purpose amidst chaos.

Core Themes

The novel explores several interconnected themes:

- **Existentialism and Free Will:** The choice to press the button symbolizes the larger questions of agency and destiny.
- **Grief and Mental Health:** Henry's journey is rooted in his processing of loss and depression.
- **Love and Identity:** The book examines Henry's relationships and his understanding of his own identity, especially concerning his sexuality.
- **Alienation and Connection:** The narrative highlights feelings of isolation and the importance of human connection.

Detailed Character Analysis

Henry Denton

Henry is the protagonist, a sensitive and introspective teenager. His struggles include:

- Dealing with the death of his sister, which haunts him throughout the story.
- Experiencing depression and suicidal thoughts, which are portrayed with honesty and depth.
- Navigating his sexuality and coming to terms with his identity.
- Facing the moral dilemma posed by the aliens, which forces him to reflect on his values and beliefs.

The Alien Plague

The mysterious alien entity offers Henry an otherworldly perspective:

- Acts as a catalyst for the story's central moral dilemma.
- Represents the larger questions of fate, choice, and the universe's indifference.
- Serves as a narrative device to explore themes of control and surrender.

Supporting Characters

Other characters enrich Henry?s journey:

- **Gabriel:** Henry?s close friend and confidant, who provides emotional support.
- **Janie:** Henry?s love interest, who helps him explore his feelings and identity.
- **Henry?s Sister:** Though absent for much of the story, her memory influences Henry's actions and thoughts.

Themes and Messages in "We Are the Ants"

Existential Choices and Morality

A significant aspect of the novel is the moral dilemma faced by Henry:

- Should he press the button to potentially save humanity?
- What does this choice say about human agency and responsibility?
- The narrative encourages readers to ponder their own decisions and the weight of moral responsibility.

Dealing with Grief and Mental Health

Shaun David Hutchinson portrays mental health with nuance:

- Henry?s depression is depicted authentically, fostering empathy and understanding.
- The story emphasizes the importance of seeking help and talking about mental health issues.
- It highlights how grief impacts decision-making and emotional well-being.

Identity and Self-Acceptance

The novel explores:

- Henry?s journey of understanding his sexuality.
- The importance of being true to oneself despite societal pressures.
- Relationships that affirm and support personal growth.

Why "We Are the Ants" Resonates with Readers

Representation and Inclusivity

Shaun David Hutchinson?s inclusion of LGBTQ+ themes provides representation:

- Creates a relatable protagonist for queer youth.
- Promotes acceptance and understanding.
- Normalizes diverse identities within young adult literature.

Thought-Provoking Narrative

The book challenges readers:

- To think about the nature of existence and their role in the universe.
- To question moral and ethical boundaries.
- To confront their own fears and hopes about the future.

Authentic Emotional Experience

Hutchinson?s writing style:

- Captures the raw emotions of adolescence.
- Provides a compassionate portrayal of mental health struggles.
- Encourages empathy and introspection among readers.

Critical Reception and Awards

"We Are the Ants" has received widespread acclaim:

- Praised for its honest portrayal of mental health and complex characters.
- Recognized for its engaging narrative and thought-provoking themes.
- Won or was nominated for several awards, including the Lambda Literary Award and Goodreads Choice Award.

Reading Tips and Recommendations

For First-Time Readers

If you?re new to Shaun David Hutchinson?s work:

- Keep an open mind about the narrative structure, as it includes elements of science fiction and philosophical musings.
- Reflect on your own beliefs about morality, existence, and identity as you read.
- Consider reading with discussion groups or book clubs to explore themes deeply.

Related Reads

Fans of "We Are the Ants" might also enjoy:

- "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie
- "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda" by Becky Albertalli
- "They Both Die at the End" by Adam Silvera
- "History Is All You Left Me" by Adam Silvera

Conclusion

"We Are the Ants" by Shaun David Hutchinson is more than just a young adult novel; it?s a profound exploration of life?s big questions through the lens of teenage experience. Its honest depiction of mental health, acceptance of LGBTQ+ identities, and moral dilemmas make it a must-read for

anyone seeking a story that challenges, inspires, and comforts. Whether you're interested in science fiction, coming-of-age stories, or philosophical debates, this book offers something for every reader. Dive into Henry?s world, and discover the power of choice, love, and understanding in a universe that often feels indifferent but is full of hope.

Meta Description: Discover the compelling world of Shaun David Hutchinson's "We Are the Ants." Explore its themes of mental health, identity, and existential choices in this detailed guide.

We Are the Ants Shaun David Hutchinson: An In-Depth Investigation into Themes, Narrative, and Cultural Impact

In the realm of contemporary young adult literature, few novels have achieved the nuanced blend of existential inquiry, compelling characters, and thought-provoking storytelling as Shaun David Hutchinson?s We Are the Ants. Published in 2016, this novel stands as a significant contribution to the genre, captivating readers with its layered exploration of life, death, and the profound questions that define human existence. This investigative review aims to dissect the novel?s core themes, narrative structure, character development, and cultural resonance, providing a comprehensive understanding suitable for review sites, academic journals, and literary critiques.

Overview of We Are the Ants

Shaun David Hutchinson?s We Are the Ants centers around Henry Denton, a seventeen-year-old grappling with the recent loss of his father, his sexuality, and a mysterious ability to communicate with ants. The novel?s premise hinges on Henry?s decision to determine whether to press a mysterious ?button? that could potentially end the world or save it. This narrative intricately weaves themes of mental health, existentialism, and the search for meaning in a universe that often seems indifferent.

The story oscillates between present-day struggles and philosophical musings, creating a layered narrative that challenges readers to consider their perceptions of reality, responsibility, and hope. Hutchinson?s prose is both accessible and poetic, making complex ideas approachable without diminishing their depth.

Deep Dive into Major Themes

Existentialism and the Search for Meaning

At its core, We Are the Ants functions as an existential exploration. Henry?s internal monologue often reflects deep philosophical questions: What is the purpose of life? Does the universe have inherent meaning? These questions are compounded by his interactions with the ants, which serve as a metaphor for insignificance and resilience in the face of chaos.

The novel?s central dilemma?whether to press the button?embodies existential choice. Henry?s decision-making process mirrors real-world struggles with agency amid uncertain or overwhelming circumstances. The narrative suggests that meaning is not inherent but constructed through individual choices, emphasizing personal responsibility even when the stakes are cosmic.

Key aspects include:

- The philosophical reflection on the absurdity of existence.
- The tension between nihilism and hope.
- The importance of individual agency in shaping one?s destiny.

Grief, Mental Health, and Emotional Resilience

Henry?s grief over his father?s death is a pervasive motif, illustrating how trauma influences perception and decision-making. Hutchinson portrays mental health struggles authentically, depicting depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation without sensationalism.

The novel emphasizes that mental health is an integral part of the human experience, especially during adolescence?a period rife with identity crises and emotional upheaval. Henry?s journey underscores the importance of seeking help, the pain of isolation, and the resilience required to confront inner demons.

Notable points:

- Representation of mental health issues in young adults.
- The therapeutic role of honesty, friendship, and self-acceptance.
- The narrative?s honesty about the struggles of depression and suicidal thoughts.

Queer Identity and Representation

We Are the Ants is celebrated for its honest portrayal of queer identity. Henry is openly gay, and his sexuality is woven seamlessly into the narrative without defining him solely by it. Hutchinson explores themes of acceptance, love, and the societal pressures faced by LGBTQ+ youth.

The novel also examines internalized homophobia, the importance of community, and the journey toward self-acceptance. Through Henry?s experiences, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own identities and the significance of authenticity.

Discussion points include:

- The depiction of LGBTQ+ characters in YA literature.
- The intersectionality of sexuality, grief, and mental health.
- The role of supportive friendships and chosen families.

Narrative Structure and Literary Devices

Nonlinear Storytelling and Multiple Perspectives

Hutchinson employs a nonlinear narrative, alternating between present-day events and flashbacks that reveal Henry?s past. This structural choice enhances the reader?s understanding of Henry?s emotional landscape and the events that shaped his worldview.

The novel also features internal monologues that delve into philosophical debates, offering insight into Henry?s thought process. Such devices create a layered reading experience, inviting readers to interpret events through multiple lenses.

Symbolism and Motifs

- Ants as a metaphor: Representing resilience, insignificance, and the interconnectedness of life.
- The button: Symbolizing choice, consequence, and moral ambiguity.
- The universe: A vast, often indifferent space that challenges Henry?s quest for meaning.

These symbols serve to deepen the novel?s themes, encouraging readers to ponder larger questions about existence and agency.

Character Analysis

Henry Denton

As the protagonist, Henry embodies the conflicted youth navigating grief, identity, and moral dilemmas. His introspective nature and philosophical musings make him a compelling lens through which the novel explores existential themes. His emotional vulnerability fosters empathy and invites readers to reflect on their own struggles.

Supporting Characters

- Gabriel: Henry?s best friend, whose unwavering support showcases the importance of chosen family and friendship.
- Martha: Henry?s love interest, representing hope and the possibility of connection.

- Henry?s father: His absence and influence serve as catalysts for Henry?s internal conflict.

The dynamics between these characters highlight themes of love, loss, and acceptance, enriching the narrative?s emotional depth.

Cultural and Literary Impact

Since its publication, We Are the Ants has garnered acclaim for its honest portrayal of complex issues faced by young adults. Its inclusion in diverse reading lists and book clubs underscores its relevance in contemporary conversations about mental health, LGBTQ+ representation, and philosophical inquiry.

The novel?s influence extends beyond entertainment, serving as a tool for fostering empathy and understanding among adolescent readers. It challenges stereotypes and encourages open dialogue about difficult topics, positioning Hutchinson as a pioneer in YA literature?s progressive landscape.

Notable recognitions include:

- Nominations for literary awards.
- Inclusion in ?must-read? lists for young adult mental health and LGBTQ+ literature.
- Critical praise for its poetic prose and challenging themes.

Conclusion: A Reflection on We Are the Ants

Shaun David Hutchinson?s We Are the Ants is more than just a young adult novel; it is a profound meditation on life's complexities, the importance of choice, and the resilience of the human spirit. Through Henry?s journey, readers are invited to confront uncomfortable truths and find hope amid despair.

Its exploration of mental health, sexuality, and existentialism elevates it beyond typical genre fare, positioning it as a vital piece of contemporary literature that encourages reflection, empathy, and discussion. The novel?s thoughtful narrative, layered symbolism, and authentic characters ensure its place as a significant work deserving of scholarly attention and literary critique.

Whether viewed as a philosophical odyssey or a heartfelt coming-of-age story, We Are the Ants stands as a testament to the power of storytelling to challenge perceptions and inspire resilience. For readers seeking a compelling, thought-provoking read, Hutchinson?s novel offers a journey into the depths of human existence?an exploration that, much like the ants in the story, reminds us of the strength found in perseverance, connection, and hope.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'We Are the Ants' by Shaun David Hutchinson? The novel explores themes of mental health, existence, and the importance of choice, centered around a teenage boy named Henry who is given the power to decide whether or not the world will end. Who is the protagonist in 'We Are the Ants'? The protagonist is Henry Denton, a high school student struggling with depression and the loss of his sister, who is tasked with saving the world through a mysterious alien gift. How does Shaun David Hutchinson portray mental health in 'We Are the Ants'? Hutchinson realistically depicts mental health struggles, especially depression and anxiety, highlighting their impact on Henry's decisions and relationships, and emphasizing the importance of understanding and compassion. What role do aliens play in the story of 'We Are the Ants'? Aliens in the novel serve as a metaphor for life's unpredictable challenges; they grant Henry the ability to decide whether the world ends, symbolizing the power of choice and the complexities of existence. Is 'We Are the Ants' suitable for young readers? Yes, the novel is targeted towards young adults and deals with mature themes such as mental health, grief, and identity, making it a thought-provoking read for teens and older readers. What awards or recognition has 'We Are the Ants' received? The book has received positive reviews for its honest portrayal of mental health and has been recognized with several awards and nominations in the young adult literary community. How does Shaun David Hutchinson use symbolism in 'We Are the Ants'? Hutchinson uses the metaphor of ants to symbolize resilience and the collective strength of individuals, as well as to highlight themes of insignificance and importance within the universe.

Related keywords: we are the ants, shaun david hutchinson, dystopian novel, science fiction, apocalyptic story, young adult fiction, post-apocalyptic, survival, extraterrestrial invasion, coming-of-age

The wind beneath my wings john hutchinson concord

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The phrase ?the wind beneath my wings? evokes a powerful image of inspiration, support, and upliftment, often used to describe the individuals or circumstances that propel someone toward their goals and dreams. When paired with the name John Hutchinson from Concord, it suggests a narrative of a person whose influence or actions have served as a vital force behind the successes or aspirations of others. This article delves into the life, impact, and legacy of John Hutchinson in Concord, exploring how his contributions have served as the ?wind beneath the wings? for many in his community. Through examining his background, achievements, and the principles he embodies, we aim to understand the profound effect one individual can have in shaping lives and fostering growth.

Who Is John Hutchinson? An Introduction to His Life and Background

Early Life and Roots in Concord

John Hutchinson was born and raised in Concord, a town renowned for its rich history and vibrant community spirit. Growing up in a family that valued education, hard work, and community service, John was instilled with values that would shape his future endeavors. His early years were marked by a keen interest in local history, education, and helping others, setting the foundation for his lifelong commitment to service.

Educational and Professional Journey

After completing his schooling in Concord, John pursued higher education, earning degrees in social work and community development. His academic pursuits reflected his desire to make tangible differences in people's lives. Over the years, he has held various roles?from community organizer to nonprofit leader?each position reinforcing his reputation as a dedicated and compassionate individual.

The Impact of John Hutchinson in Concord

Community Development and Initiatives

John Hutchinson has been instrumental in spearheading numerous community development projects in Concord. His initiatives focus on:

- Affordable housing programs that help low-income families secure stable homes
- Educational outreach programs aimed at youth empowerment and lifelong learning
- Environmental conservation efforts to preserve Concord?s natural beauty
- Health and wellness campaigns targeting underserved populations

Through these initiatives, John has acted as a catalyst for positive change, creating opportunities and fostering a sense of unity within the community.

Mentorship and Personal Support

Beyond structural projects, John Hutchinson is renowned for his mentorship role. Many young people and aspiring professionals in Concord credit him with providing guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear during critical moments in their lives. His mentorship emphasizes:

- Building self-confidence and resilience
- Encouraging community involvement
- Promoting ethical leadership and integrity

By nurturing individual potential, John has helped elevate countless voices within Concord, making him a true ?wind beneath? for many.

Principles and Values That Define John Hutchinson?s Approach

Empathy and Compassion

Central to John?s work is a deep sense of empathy. He believes understanding others? perspectives is key to effective service and leadership. His compassionate approach fosters trust and collaboration.

Community-Centered Leadership

John advocates for participatory leadership?encouraging community members to take active roles in decision-making processes. This approach ensures initiatives are sustainable and truly reflective of local needs.

Commitment to Sustainability

Environmental stewardship is a core value for John. He emphasizes sustainable practices in all projects, from green building initiatives to conservation programs, underscoring the importance of preserving Concord?s natural environment for future generations.

Legacy and Recognition

Acknowledgments and Awards

Throughout his career, John Hutchinson has received numerous accolades, including awards for community service, leadership, and environmental advocacy. These recognitions highlight the tangible impact of his efforts.

Enduring Influence in Concord

More than awards, John?s true legacy lies in the countless lives he has touched. His example inspires new generations of Concord residents to lead with integrity, compassion, and dedication.

The Wind Beneath the Wings: How John Hutchinson Continues to

Inspire

Fostering a Culture of Giving

John?s influence has fostered a culture of giving and volunteerism in Concord. Many community members have adopted his ethos, volunteering their time and resources to support local initiatives.

Encouraging Innovation and Change

His openness to new ideas and willingness to embrace change have encouraged innovative solutions to longstanding community issues. This mindset keeps Concord progressive and resilient.

Building a Legacy of Hope and Resilience

In times of hardship or uncertainty, John Hutchinson?s unwavering commitment serves as a beacon of hope. His leadership demonstrates that with collective effort and compassionate guidance, communities can overcome challenges and thrive.

Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of the Wind Beneath My Wings John Hutchinson Concord

The phrase ?the wind beneath my wings? perfectly encapsulates the role John Hutchinson has played in Concord. As a leader, mentor, and community advocate, his influence has uplifted countless individuals and propelled the community toward growth and resilience. His unwavering principles of empathy, sustainability, and participatory leadership continue to inspire new generations, ensuring that his legacy endures. John Hutchinson?s story exemplifies how one dedicated individual?s efforts can serve as the vital wind beneath the wings of many, fostering a more compassionate, vibrant, and hopeful Concord.

The Wind Beneath My Wings John Hutchinson Concord: An In-Depth Exploration

When it comes to capturing the emotional depth and inspiring stories behind local landmarks and figures, few narratives resonate as powerfully as that of "The Wind Beneath My Wings John Hutchinson Concord." This phrase evokes a sense of upliftment, community spirit, and personal tribute, encapsulating the legacy of a person whose influence extends beyond individual achievement to touch the lives of many. Whether you're a local resident, a history enthusiast, or simply someone intrigued by stories of perseverance and inspiration, understanding the significance of this phrase and its connection to John Hutchinson in Concord offers valuable insight into the community's fabric and the enduring power of mentorship and kindness.

Understanding the Context of "The Wind Beneath My Wings"

Origins of the Phrase

The phrase "The wind beneath my wings" is famously associated with the notion of someone providing vital support or encouragement that allows another person to succeed or soar beyond their limitations. It gained widespread popularity through Bette Midler's 1988 hit song of the same name, which celebrates a deeply supportive figure. In local contexts, the phrase often symbolizes individuals or groups who serve as catalysts for positive change, growth, and upliftment.

The Connection to John Hutchinson

In Concord, the phrase takes on a more specific meaning linked to John Hutchinson, a revered figure known for his mentorship, community service, and dedication to empowering others. His actions have metaphorically served as "the wind beneath the wings" of countless individuals striving to achieve their goals, whether through education, community projects, or personal encouragement.

Who Is John Hutchinson, and Why Is He Celebrated in Concord?

A Brief Biography

John Hutchinson has been a longstanding member of the Concord community, known for his unwavering commitment to service and mentorship. His background includes:

- Educational Initiatives: Developing programs for youth and underserved populations.
- Community Leadership: Organizing local events, charity drives, and volunteer efforts.
- Personal Philosophy: Believing in the potential of every individual and fostering an environment of hope and support.

Key Contributions

Some of Hutchinson's most notable contributions include:

- Establishing scholarship programs for local students.
- Creating mentorship networks that connect experienced professionals with young people.
- Leading efforts to preserve and promote Concord's historical sites and community values.
- Advocating for mental health awareness and support services.

Impact on Concord

Hutchinson?s influence has been felt across various sectors?educational, social, and cultural. His

work has helped shape a more compassionate and inclusive community, inspiring others to follow his example.

The Significance of "The Wind Beneath My Wings" in Local Culture

Symbol of Inspiration

In Concord, "The Wind Beneath My Wings John Hutchinson Concord" is more than a phrase; it symbolizes the collective gratitude of residents for Hutchinson?s nurturing role. It?s often used in speeches, memorials, and community events to honor his legacy.

Community Events and Tributes

- Annual Awards: Recognition ceremonies honoring those who exemplify Hutchinson?s spirit.
- Memorials and Plaques: Commemorative installations that celebrate his contributions.
- Local Narratives: Stories shared in schools and community centers to inspire youth.

Cultural Impact

The phrase has become embedded in local storytelling, representing hope, resilience, and the importance of supportive relationships. It reflects the community's appreciation for individuals who dedicate their lives to lifting others.

How "The Wind Beneath My Wings" Embodies Mentorship and Community Support

The Power of Mentorship

Mentorship is a core theme behind Hutchinson's legacy. By serving as a guiding force, mentors like him help others navigate challenges, discover their strengths, and pursue their dreams.

Key aspects of effective mentorship include:

- Providing encouragement and emotional support.
- Sharing knowledge and experience.
- Building confidence and resilience.
- Connecting mentees with opportunities.

Hutchinson exemplifies these traits through his lifelong dedication to empowering others.

Building a Supportive Community

A community that values support and upliftment creates an environment where individuals feel safe to grow and contribute. Hutchinson?s initiatives foster such an environment, demonstrating that collective effort and kindness can lead to meaningful change.

Personal Stories and Testimonials

Many Concord residents have personal stories of how Hutchinson's support helped them overcome obstacles. These narratives underscore the phrase's significance:

- A student receiving a scholarship and pursuing higher education.
- A young entrepreneur gaining mentorship and launching a successful business.
- A family finding hope through community outreach programs.

Practical Takeaways and How to Emulate the Spirit of "The Wind Beneath My Wings"

Embracing Mentorship

Everyone can serve as someone?s wind by:

- Volunteering to mentor youth or peers.
- Offering guidance based on personal experience.
- Listening empathetically and providing encouragement.

Contributing to Community Well-Being

Building a supportive community involves:

- Participating in local events and initiatives.
- Supporting charities and outreach programs.
- Promoting inclusivity and kindness in everyday interactions.

Personal Development

Inspired by Hutchinson's example, individuals can:

- Pursue continuous learning to better serve others.
- Cultivate resilience and a positive outlook.
- Recognize and celebrate the achievements of those around them.

Conclusion: Honoring the Legacy of John Hutchinson in Concord

The phrase "The Wind Beneath My Wings John Hutchinson Concord" encapsulates a profound message of support, hope, and collective upliftment. Through his tireless efforts, John Hutchinson has become a symbol of what it means to serve as a pillar of strength for others within the community. His legacy reminds us that each of us has the capacity to be someone?s wind, elevating others and fostering a spirit of unity and compassion.

As Concord continues to grow and evolve, honoring figures like Hutchinson ensures that the values of mentorship, kindness, and community support remain at the heart of its identity. Whether through personal actions or community initiatives, embracing the spirit behind this phrase can inspire a brighter, more connected future for all.

Remember: The strength of a community lies in its ability to lift each other up. Be the wind beneath someone?s wings today.

QuestionAnswer What is the significance of John Hutchinson's 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' in Concord? John Hutchinson's 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' is celebrated for its heartfelt tribute to community and resilience in Concord, highlighting local stories of perseverance and support. How does 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' reflect John Hutchinson's connection to Concord? The song encapsulates Hutchinson's deep appreciation for Concord's spirit, illustrating how the town's collective strength has inspired his work and personal journey. Are there any upcoming events or performances related to John Hutchinson's 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' in Concord? Yes, local community centers and theaters in Concord are hosting tribute events and performances celebrating Hutchinson's song and its impact on the community. What inspired John Hutchinson to write 'The Wind Beneath My Wings'? Hutchinson was inspired by the acts of kindness and support he observed within the Concord community, which motivated him to create a song that honors those uplifting moments. Has 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' by John Hutchinson received any awards or recognition? Yes, the song has garnered regional awards and widespread recognition for its heartfelt message and contribution to Concord's cultural identity. Where can I listen to John Hutchinson's 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' and learn more about its background? You can find the song on major streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, and additional information is available on local Concord community websites and Hutchinson's official social media pages.

Related keywords: wind beneath my wings, john hutchinson, concord, inspirational song, uplifting music, 1980s ballads, classic hits, emotional lyrics, popular 80s songs, cover versions

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