

# Where Were You?

Jackson Browne

Where were you when the sky cracked open  
Waiting for shelter and barely coping?  
Thinking you could ride the storm out  
Hoping you would be all right  
Where were you when they gave a warning?  
Hundred fifty mile winds by morning  
Category four, making landfall  
In the wild gray light  
Where were you, where were you?  
Where were you in the social order  
Lower nine or a hotel in the Quarter  
Which side of the Quarter between rich and poor?  
Where were you gonna evacuate to?  
Assuming there was any way to  
Where if you didn't own a car  
Where were you, where were you?  
Where were you when you understood?  
However decent, however good  
However hard some people try  
They only barely make it by  
They're born to live their entire lives  
In harm's way  
So now where are we gonna go?  
Where were you when you heard the stranded  
The injured and the empty handed?  
Running out of food and water  
At the Superdome  
With the newborn and the elderly  
Exposed to even more misery  
While those in charge of rescue  
Waited for the Guard to come  
Those who left the Convention Center  
Were stopped on the bridge when they tried to enter  
The safety of the Westbank and higher ground  
And when the Guard finally did arrive  
And got to work on about day five  
Mainly they were used to keep the looting down  
Where were you, where were you?  
Where were you when you realized  
However strong, however wise  
However true our leaders appear to be?  
They talk about prosperity  
However hard this country strives  
Where property is valued more than lives  
How strong will we ever really be?  
How long do we imagine we'll be free?  
We hold the truth, self evident  
The photograph of the President  
An Air Force One, he viewed the devastation  
Shaved face and rested eyes  
Looking down, he circles twice  
On his way home from his vacation  
Where were you when you got the picture?  
Where were you?  
Where were you  
When the streets filled up with black water?

Where were you  
When defeat and destruction reigned in the Crescent?Where were you  
When it blew from every direction?  
Where were you when the promise was made  
To return and rebuild, to restore to its peopleThe city that gave us the first American music  
True inspiration and the freedom to use it  
Where will we find it again if we lose it  
And where will we be if we ever cease to love?  
If we ever cease to love

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