Powderfinger

Neil Young

Look out, Mama, there's a white boat comin' up the river
With a big red beacon and a flag and a man on the rail
I think you'd better call John
'Cause it don't look like they're here to deliver the mail
And they're less than a mile away
I hope they didn't come to stay
It's got numbers on the side and a gun
And it's makin' big waves
Daddy has gone, my brother's out hunting in the mountains
Big John's been drinking since the river took Emmy Lou
So the powers that be left me here to do the thinkin'
And I just turned twenty-two
I was wonderin' what to do
And the closer they got
The more those feelings grew
Daddy's rifle in my hand felt reassurin'
He told me, "Red means run son, numbers add up to nothin'"
But when the first shot hit the docks I saw it comin'
Raised my rifle to my eye
Never stopped to wonder why
Then I saw black
And my face splashed in the sky
Shelter me from the powder and the finger
Cover me with the thought that pulled the trigger
Just think of me as one you'd never figured
Would fade away so young
With so much left undone
Remember me to my love
I know I'll miss her

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