

"RECORDED UNDER THE SPELL OF A TENNESSEE MOON" - ND

“Recorded for the ‘Tennessee Moon’ album and co-written with Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member Layng Martine Jr., the nostalgic tune revels in the riches that money can’t buy. While Diamond managed to throw in some autobiographical touches, he cautions against taking the lyrics too literally. ‘I liked the song so much because I was able to get my Harley Davidson in the song and my little cabin by the stream, but never had a tree that I climbed behind my house, though I wish I did,’ he says. ‘It was my imagination wanting to have those special places that you remember that have nothing to do with money, but more to do with satisfying the soul. I think that was Layng’s title about ‘I was rich before I had a dime.’ We had fun writing the song.”

Images marked KD courtesy of Katie Diamond

BEFORE I HAD A DIME

NEIL DIAMOND/LAYNGMARTINE Jr

I grew up on love before I knew the hurt
Good family great friends steer me through the curves
In my backyard I had an old tree to climb
I was rich before I had a dime

Lookin' for an eagles nest of walkin' through the wind
Just open up my window wide, let God's music in
Then I found you, I fell in love for the very first time
Yes, I was rich before I had a dime

Now I ride a Harley Davidson, I got a cabin by the stream
But your lovin' arms when I get there are all I really need

If I wake up one day my position's gone
I know so well what I've been livin' on
I'll reach for you and I'll be just fine
'Cause you made me rich before I had a dime

Now I ride a Harley Davidson, I got a cabin on the stream
But your lovin' arms that hold me close are all I really need

If I ever wake up one day, all my things are gone
I know darn well what I've been livin' on
I'll reach for you and I'll be doin' fine
'Cause you made me rich before I had a dime
I was a rich man before I had a dime

NEIL DIAMOND – 1996 (Released in 2018)

The 50th Anniversary Collector's Edition (2018)