

The Road to Louisiana

Background: Another song that came from nowhere and is not about me or anyone I know. Or maybe it is. It started in early July, with the lyrics mostly finished on a New Jersey beach on July 4th. New Orleans is a city I've been to about 20 times and the one, outside of my hometown of DC, with which I have the most affinity.

Written: July 1-7, 2025

Verse

On the road to Louisiana
Driving down all alone
Crossing the Susquehanna
Still got 1200 miles to go
Chasing my old girl Joanna
Back then we all just called her Jo
It's only been 6 months
But it seems so long ago

Pre-Chorus

Yeah I could have flown
But that implies I'm coming back
This ain't no round trip no

Got my entire life here packed
Whether she still wants me
I sure as hell don't know
Either way
I'm going there to stay

Chorus

The road to Louisiana
Broke my heart
The road to Louisiana
Should've known from the start
The road to Louisiana
This path I choose
I ain't got nothing to lose
Her I can't refuse

Verse

She came all the way from Savannah
Her accent made me a fool
She wore that red bandana
And made it look so cool
59 south through Alabama

Chasing after my lost crown jewel
For every heartbeat and every mile
Broken hearts and broken rules

Pre-Chorus

It felt wrong leaving
But I had to find out my worth
The big leagues were calling
So I had to head back north
We said we'd keep in touch
One day that fell right off the earth
She's moved on I know
But I just can't let her go

Chorus

The road to Louisiana
Broke my heart
The road to Louisiana
Should've known from the start
The road to Louisiana
This path I choose
I ain't got nothing to lose

Her I can't refuse

Bridge

All those nights on Frenchmen
Coolin' at The Blue Nile
Eatin' crawfish on St. Claude
Our best attempt at style
Last call at The Jimini
Crossin' through Jackson Square
To spit into the Big Muddy
Hopin' to find some luck down there

Verse

On the road to Louisiana
I looked up her old roommate
When she saw me she broke down
Tears ran down her face
She told me about the accident
Couldn't believe I didn't know
I read the obit in disbelief
Staring at a picture of my late Jo

Pre-Chorus

On the road to Louisiana
I wasn't sure what I would find
Didn't think I'd end up in Lafayette
Broken down and cryin'
Thinking 'bout why I left
I'll always regret that day
So just for her
I'm stayin' here anyway

Chorus

The road to Louisiana
Broke my heart
The road to Louisiana
Should've known from the start
The road to Louisiana
This path I choose
I ain't got nothing to lose
Her I can't refuse