

"Blue Moon"—as we know it—was the only Rodgers and Hart hit that wasn't written specially for a screen or stage production. The first version, entitled "Prayer," was composed in 1933 for Jean Harlow to sing in a film called Hollywood Revue. The project was scrapped. In 1934, Hart wrote new lyrics and it became "The Bad in Every Man," sung by Shirley Ross in the William Powell film Manhattan Melodrama—and quickly forgotten. A third set of lyrics, suggested by the publisher that same year, produced "Blue Moon." In 1948, Billy Eckstine "revived" it with a millionselling recording; in 1961, a rock group, called the Marcels, doubled that sale with a version in which Rodgers' melody was altered beyond recognition and Hart's words were unintelligible.

> Music by: Richard Rodgers Words by: Lorenz Hart







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