

# The Dark Side of the Moon: Song by Song [B2]

Ripercorriamo brano per brano il disco “The Dark Side of the Moon”, un classico intramontabile delle classifiche internazionali.



Pink Floyd has sold over 250 million records, and “The Dark Side of the Moon” is fourth in the list of worldwide bestsellers, after Michael Jackson’s “Thriller”, AC/DC’s “Back in Black”, and the [soundtrack](#) to the film “The Bodyguard”. Its iconic [front cover](#), with light refracting from a triangular prism, was created by the graphic designer Storm Thorgerson. There are only six colours, as it was thought that indigo was too similar to the black [background](#) of the album. Nowhere on the [front cover](#), back cover or the [spine](#) does it say “Pink Floyd” or “The Dark Side of the Moon”.

## SIDE 1

**Speak to Me:** the opening track, the bass is the human heart, a metaphor for life. A roadie begins “I’ve been mad for fucking years”, setting the scene for the album’s [bleak](#) tone. **Breathe in the Air:** is about the stresses and [strains](#) of everyday life, with the last, depressing line, “You race towards an [early grave](#).” **On the Run:** this track was performed on a new synthesizer

and featured an airport [PA](#) message. It was used in the NBA in Michael Jordan's era. **Time:** concentrates on the consequences of not living life [to the full](#) — "You [fritter](#) and waste the hours ... waiting for someone or something to show you the way." The track also has one of the most famous lyrics in rock music: "[Hanging on](#) in quiet desperation is the English way." **The Great [Gig](#) in the Sky:** this song about mortality, features the incredible vocals of Clare Torry, who received just £30 for her contribution. She later [sued](#) the band for 50 per cent of the royalties.

## **SIDE 2**

**Money:** with its famous guitar solo, [mocks](#) greed and consumerism: "New car, caviar, four-star daydream/Think I'll buy me a football team/I'm in the high-fidelity, first class travelling set/And I think I need a [Learjet](#)". **Us and Them:** mocking the idea that everything in life is black or white, the song says there can be more choices — not just 'us' and 'them'. **Any Colour You Like:** the final instrumental on the album — with no singing or talking — the song seems to be about life's lack of choices. **Brain Damage:** is a brutal song about isolation, paranoia and mental [breakdown](#), but there is also empathy and solidarity: "And if your head explodes with dark [foreboding](#) too /I'll see you on the dark side of the moon/The lunatic is in my head." **Eclipse:** the final song features the word 'all' twenty times and 'you' eighteen times! The 'moon' — dangerous ideas — conquers optimism at the end. The Dark Side of the Moon: 50th Anniversary

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# Glossary

- **early grave** = morte prematura (lett. tomba)
- **to the full** = al massimo
- **Hanging on** = tenersi stretto
- **mocks** = prendere in giro
- **soundtrack** = colonna sonora
- **front cover** = copertina
- **spine** = dorso
- **fritter** = sciupare
- **Gig** = concerto
- **Learjet** = aviogetto
- **bleak** = triste
- **strains** = tensioni
- **PA** = impianto audio (public address system)
- **foreboding** = presagio
- **background** = sfondo
- **sued** = querelare
- **breakdown** = esaurimento