= Passenger (Powderfinger song) =

" Passenger " is a song from Powderfinger 's third studio album Internationalist . It was released as a single on 9 August 1999 , and reached # 30 on the Australian music chart . The single was nominated for Single of the year in 2000 at the Australian ARIA Music Awards . " Passenger " was also featured as the opening song performed by Powderfinger while supporting Crowded House 's Farewell to the World charity concert in November 1996 .

= = Single release and history = =

The single for " Passenger " included five companion tracks , including two live tracks . These were " Passenger " and " Pick You Up " , both performed on 11 October 1998 at Sydney Opera House . A version of " These Days " was also included , and this was the first time the song was released . " Passenger " was released on 9 August 1999 in Australia , and was one of two Powderfinger songs that were actively being played on commercial radio at the time ; the other being " These Days " , which also appeared on the soundtrack for Two Hands . At the time , Powderfinger were performing in clubs and universities around Australia on their P2K tour , and the release of the single resulted in a large boost in ticket sales .

= = Song structure = =

In " Passenger " , a recurring theme in Bernard Fanning ? s song writing emerged ; " a fascination with the banality of routine " . Esky Magazine ? s Kelsy Munro cited the lines " So many places you ? d prefer to be / Than framed by a picket fence and salary " as an example of this , as well as examples from future songs " These Days " and " My Kind of Scene " . When asked about this , Fanning offered no direct explanation , saying it wasn ? t a conscious theme , but did suggest that it could be a " part guilt @-@ complex " because of his relatively care @-@ free lifestyle .
In " Passenger " , the key signature is D major , however the verses begin with the G chord , while the choruses and outro are in the D major 's relative minor key , B minor . The song is a completely straight rock feel in the time signature of 4 / 4 .
" Passenger " featured Brisbane trio Tiddas for the first time , providing backing vocals . Tiddas also accompanied Powderfinger live , although some of the elements of " Passenger " , such as the brass sections , were replicated using a keyboard . Powderfinger 's Drummer Jon Coghill described some elements of " Passenger " , including the horn section , as being based on the work of Elvis Presley , and his big band . Coghill said " We tried to do it like Elvis would , in a big band arrangement . There are backing vocals , horns and a la la sound . "

= = Music video = =

Powderfinger enlisted Brisbane @-@ based production company Fifty Fifty Films to direct and produce the music video for " Passenger " . This was the group 's first experience with Fifty Fifty , and its success encouraged the group to direct future videos .
The video for " Passenger " begins with the band members packing themselves and their musical instruments into suitcases . They are transported to an airport while the song 's first verse is played . During the first chorus , the cases are loaded onto a baggage carousel with a bomb , whilst security personnel are distracted . The suitcases and bomb are then loaded onto an aeroplane . During the second verse , the bomb explodes , and the suitcases containing the band members fall out of it and are swallowed by an unnamed creature resembling a whale . They are later ejected from the blowhole of the creature into zero @-@ gravity , when the second chorus commences . At the end of the chorus , the suitcases re @-@ enter the Earth ? s atmosphere . The video ends with the suitcases floating in the ocean .
Carmine Pascuzzi , in an article about the band ? s P2K tour , wrote that " Passenger " was " ... accompanied by an excellent video " .

= = Response = =

 Powderfinger ? s bass guitarist , John Collins , jokingly noted in an interview with Rod Yates of Massive Magazines that " the guitars are out of tune at the start of Passenger " , whilst guitarist Darren Middleton explained that " there are not regrets with any of that sort of stuff , it ? s part of who we are and what we ? ve done " , in reference to the out of tune guitars .
 Upon its release , " Passenger " was hailed as one of the songs on Internationalist to come close to " the big FM radio hits of Double Allergic " , according to lead singer Bernard Fanning . Not that it mattered to him - he still believed Internationalist was a better record , but was probably not as " likable " as its predecessor . Juice 's Simon Wooldridge agreed with Fanning , stating that " Passenger " " demonstrated their flair for the big hook was no longer being suppressed " . On 2 August 2007 , Australian television station Max published the Top 500 90s Songs , placing " Passenger " as the only Powderfinger song in the top 100 , at # 48 , just ahead of Fatboy Slim 's " Praise You " .

= = = Charts = = =

 The single for " Passenger " achieved a peak position of # 30 on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart in 1999 . The single reached # 33 in its first week , then reached its # 30 peak in the second week and remained on the singles chart for eleven weeks . The single failed to chart outside of Australia .

= = = Awards = = =

 As the final single from Internationalist , " Passenger " received nominations and awards from various institutions Australia @-@ wide . Most notably , it was nominated three times by the Australian Recording Industry Association in 2000 for the ARIA Music Awards for Best Cover Art , Single of the Year and earned Powderfinger the nomination for Best Group , though won none of these awards . The song was also nominated and did win the award for Song of the Year from the Australasian Performing Right Association for their annual APRA Awards . The song also achieved the 100th position on the 1999 Triple J Hottest 100 .

= = Track listing = =

 All tracks written and performed by Powderfinger .
 " Passenger " ? 4 : 09
 " These Days " ? 4 : 59
 " Passenger (Live) " ? 4 : 41
 " Pick You Up (Live) " ? 4 : 47
 " Maxwell 's Great Mistake " ? 2 : 58
 " That Ol ' Track " ? 3 : 47