

# The Business Blues

Most Blues begin: 'Woke up this morning ...' 'I got a good woman' is a bad way to begin the Blues, unless you stick something nasty in the next line like, 'I got a good woman, with the meanest face in town.' You can't have a Blues that begins: 'I got a good manager, who sets meaningful performance goals and critical success factors.' Nor one that starts 'I woke up this morning, the server was down.'

The Blues ain't about A-Z Creative Problem Solving, brainstorming sessions, option formulation or scenario planning: You stuck in a ditch, you stuck in a ditch – ain't no way out.

Blues cars: Chevys, Fords, Cadillacs and broken-down trucks. Blues don't travel in Volvos, BMW's, or Sport Utility Vehicles. You can have the last train to Clarksville, but not Cirencester. There are no trains to heaven as 70s Pop-Art band Be-Bop Deluxe succinctly put it.

Blues can take place in New York City, but not in Rochester or any place in Canada. Hard times in Minneapolis or Canterbury is probably just clinical depression. Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City are still the best places to have the Blues, not York, Bath or Slough. You cannot have the blues in any place that don't get rain.

You can't have no Blues in a shopping mall. The lighting is all wrong.

Acceptable Blues beverages are: cheap wine, whisky or bourbon, muddy water. The following are NOT Blues beverages: Perrier, Chardonnay, Pimms or Slim Fast.

If death occurs in a cheap motel or a shotgun shack, it's a Blues death. Stabbed in the back by a jealous lover is another Blues way to die. So are the electric chair and substance abuse. You can't have a Blues death if you expire during a strategy meeting, a team building day, on an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn, or while receiving liposuction.

People with names like Michelle, Amber, Jade, Debbie, Les and Heather can't sing the Blues no matter how many men they shoot in the 'twin blues towns' of Memphis, Milton Keynes or Milan.

**Extract from 'Sex, Leadership and Rock'n'Roll**

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