December 1963 (Oh, What a Night)

(The Four Seasons)

[Verse 1: Gerry Polci]
Oh, what a night
Late December, back in '63
What a very special time for me
As I remember, what a night
Oh, what a night
You know, I didn't even know her name
But I was never gonna be the same
What a lady, what a night

[Chorus: Frankie Valli]
Oh, I
I got a funny feeling when she walked in the room
And I
As I recall, it ended much too soon

[Verse 2: Gerry Polci]
Oh, what a night
Hypnotizing, mesmerizing me
She was everything I dreamed she'd be
Sweet surrender, what a night

[Bridge: Don Ciccone]
And I felt a rush like a rolling bolt of thunder
Spinning my head around and taking my body under
Oh, what a night

[Chorus: Frankie Valli]
Oh, I
I got a funny feeling when she walked in the room
And I
As I recall, it ended much too soon

[Verse 3: Gerry Polci]
Oh, what a night
Why'd it take so long to see the light?
Seemed so wrong but now it seems so right
What a lady, what a night

[Bridge: Don Ciccone]
And I felt a rush like a rolling bolt of thunder
Spinning my head around and taking my body under
Oh, what a night

[Outro: Gerry Polci, Frankie Valli, Don Ciccone]
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night
(Do do do do do, do do do do) Oh what a night

"December, 1963 (Oh, What a Night)" is a song by the Four Seasons, written by original Four Seasons keyboard player Bob Gaudio and his future wife Judy Parker, produced by Gaudio, and included on the group's album, Who Loves You (1975).

The song features drummer Gerry Polci on lead vocals, with the usual lead Frankie Valli singing the bridge sections and backing vocals, and bass player Don Ciccone (former lead singer of The Critters) singing the falsetto part (And I felt a rush like a rolling ball of thunder / Spinning my head around and taking my body under).

According to the co-writer and longtime group member Bob Gaudio, the song lyrics were originally set in 1933 with the title "December 5th, 1933," and celebrated the repeal of Prohibition, but the lyrics were changed at the urgings of Frankie Valli and lyricist Parker to reposition the song as a nostalgic remembrance of a young man's first affair with a woman, and, more specifically, Gaudio's courtship with his wife, Judy Parker.

The song is an up-tempo, piano-led dance song with a distinct and easily recognizable opening drum and then piano riff. It is written in 4/4 and in the key of D-flat major. Whilst the song's Piano/Bass/Drums/Guitar/Keyboard arrangement is fairly typical of pop songs of the period, there is an unusual introduction of the bass guitar midway through a stanza in the 10th bar of the song's first verse.

The single was released in December 1975 and hit number one on the UK Singles Chart on February 21, 1976. It repeated the feat on the US Billboard Hot 100 on March 13, 1976, remaining in the top spot for three weeks and one week on Cash Box. Billboard ranked it as the No. 4 song for 1976. On April 10 the same year, it topped the RPM National Top Singles Chart in Canada. Drummer Gerry Polci sang lead with bassist Don Ciccone and long-time frontman Frankie Valli singing the bridge and refrain. It was the Four Seasons' final song, as a group, to reach number one. (Valli would have one final chart-topper as a solo act in 1978 with the theme song to the film Grease.)

In both 1988 and 1993, Dutch DJ and producer Ben Liebrand remixed the song and re-released it as a single. The 1993 re-release spent 27 weeks on the Hot 100 (matching the chart life of the original 1975 single). The peak position of the 1993 remix version was #14. Adding together the two 27-week chart runs for the 1975 original single and the 1993 remix version (for a combined total of 54 weeks, two more weeks than a full year) gave the song the longest tenure ever on the Billboard Hot 100 music chart up to that time. The tenure has since been surpassed many times.