

## “Birth Ritual” - Soundgarden (1992)



“Birth Ritual,” the *Badmotorfinger* outtake that was one of Soundgarden’s two contributions to Cameron Crowe’s *Singles* soundtrack, finds Cornell diving in at full power from the very first line. At the chorus, he effortlessly modulates up to a higher range and intensity, then doubles his efforts within the same passage, intoning “ritualllllllll....” and taking the last syllable of the word up into the heavens—except in the last verse, when he shoots it straight into the stratosphere and chases it with howls as operatic as they are primal. What’s astounding here is the amount of control Cornell manifests over every single line: the intensity is careful, measured, but abso-fucking-lutely turbocharged. —Caryn Rose