

American Pie

Don Mclean

G D/F# Em7
Verse 1 A long, long time ago
Am C Em D D
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile
G D/F# Em7
And I knew if I had my chance
Am C Em C D D
That I could make those people dance and maybe they'd be happy for a while
Em Am Em Am
But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd deliver
C C/B Am C D D
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step
G D/F# Em Am7 D
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride
G D/F# Em
Something touched me deep inside
C D7 G
The day the music died

G C G D
Chorus So bye, bye Miss American Pie
G C G D
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry
G C G D
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Em* A7* Em* D7 D7
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

G Am
Verse 2 Did you write the book of love
C Am Em D D
And do you have faith in God above, if the bible tells you so?
G D/F# Em
Do you believe in rock and roll
Am7 C Em A7 D D
Can music save your mortal soul and can you teach me how to dance real slow?
Em* D* Em* D*
Well I know that you're in love with him 'cuz I saw you dancin' in the gym
C C/B Am C D7
You both kicked off your shoes, man I dig those rhythm and blues
G D/F# Em Am C
I was a lonely teenage bronckin' buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck
G D/F# Em C D7 G C G D
But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin'

| Chorus

Verse 3

Now for ten years we've been on our own
 and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but that's not how it used to be
 When the jester sang for the king and queen
 in a coat he borrowed from James Dean in a voice that came from you and me
 Oh, and while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown
 The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned
 And while Lennon read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park
 And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

| Chorus

Verse 4

Helter skelter in a summer swelter
 the birds flew off with a fallout shelter, eight miles high and fallin' fa-ast
 It landed foul on the grass
 the players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the sidelines in a cast
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune
 We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance
 'Cuz the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield
 Do you recall what was revealed the day the music died, we started singin'

| Chorus

Verse 5

And there we were all in one place
 a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again
 So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candle stick, 'cuz
 fire is the devil's only friend

Em* **D*** **Em*** **D***
 And as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clenched in fists of rage
C **C/B** **A7** **C** **D7**
 No angel born in Hell could break that Satan's spell
G **D/F#** **Em** **Am** **C**
 And as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial rite
G **D/F#** **Em** **C** **D7** **G** **C** **G** **D**
 I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin'

Chorus **G** **C** **G** **D**
 So bye, bye Miss American Pie
G **C** **G** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry
G **C** **G** **D**
 And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Em* **A7* Em*** **D7* (D7*)**
 Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

Verse 6 **G*** **D/F#*** **Em***
 I met a girl who sang the blues
Am* **C*** **Em*** **D*** **(D*)**
 And I asked her for some happy news, but she just smiled and turned away
G* **D/F#*** **Em***
 I went down to the sacred store
Am* **C*** **Em*** **C***
 Where I'd heard the music years before, but the man there said the music
D* (D*)
 wouldn't play
Em* **Am*** **Em*** **Am***
 But in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets dreamed
C* **C/B*** **Am*** **C*** **D***
 But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken
G* **D/F#* Em*** **Am7*** **D7***
 And the three men I ad-mire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost
G* **D/F#*** **Em*** **C*** **D7*** **G***
 They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died
N.C.
 And they were singin'

Last Chorus **G** **C** **G** **D**
 So bye, bye Miss American Pie
G **C** **G** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry
G **C** **G** **D**
 And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Em* **A7* Em*** **D7* (D7*)**
 Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

G C G D
 They were singin' bye, bye Miss American Pie
G C G D
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry
G C G D
 And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
C D7 G C G*
 Singin' this will be the day that I die