

American Pie

Key of G

Don Mclean

Verse 1:

G D Em Am C
A long, long time ago, I can still remember
Em D
how that music used to make me smile.

G D Em
And I knew if I had my chance
Am C
that I could make those people dance
Em C D
and maybe they'd be happy for a while.

Em Am
But February made me shiver
Em Am
with every paper I'd deliver.
C G Am
Bad news on the doorstep.
C D
I couldn't take one more step

G D Em
I can't re-member if I cried
Am7 D
when I read about his widowed bride,
G D Em
Something touched me deep inside
C D7 G C G
the day the music died. //
So...

Chorus:

G C G D
Bye-bye, Miss American Pie.

G C
Drove my Chevy to the levee
 G D
but the levee was dry.
 G C G D
Them good ole boys were drinkin' whiskey and Rye,
 Em A7
singing this'll be the day that I die,
 Em D7
This'll be the day that I die.

Verse 2:

G Am
 Did you write the book of love
 C Am
 and do you have faith in God above?
 Em D
 If the Bible tells you so

 G D Em
 Now do you believe in rock and roll?
 Am C
 Can music save your mortal soul?
 Em A7
 And can you teach me how to dance
 D7
 real slow?

 Em Am
 Well I know that you're in love with him
 Em Am
 'cause I saw you dancing in the gym,
 C G A7
 You both kicked off your shoes,
 C D7
 Man I dig those rhythm and blues!

 G D Em
 I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck,

Am C
with a pink carnation and a pick-up truck.
G D Em
But I knew I was out of luck
C D7 G C G
the day, the music died. //
G
I started singing....

Chorus:

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G D
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G C G D
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Em A7
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Em D7
This'll be the day that I die.

Verse 3:

G Am
Now for ten years, we've been on our own
C Am
and moss grows fat on a rolling stone,
Em D
But that's not how it used to be.
G D Em
Cause when the jester sang for the King & Queen
Am C
in a coat he borrowed from James Dean
Em A7 D7
and a voice that came from you and me
Em Am
Oh and while the king was looking down

Em Am
the jester stole his thorny crown
C G A7
the court room was ad-journed
C D7
no verdict was returned.

G D Em
And while Lennon read a book on Marx
Am C
the quartet practiced in the park
G D Em
and we sang dirges in the dark
C D7 G C G
the day the music died //
G D7
I started singin...

Chorus:

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G D
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G C G D
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Em D7
This'll be the day that I die.

Verse 4:

G Am
Helter skelter in the summer swelter
C Am
the birds flew off with a fallout shelter
Em D
Eight miles high and falling fast

G D Em
It landed foul on the grass
Am C
The players tried for a forward pass
Em A7 D7
with the jester on the sidelines in a cast

Em Am
The half time air was sweet perfume
Em Am
while the seargeants played a marching tune
C G A7
we all got up to dance
C D7
but we never got the chance.

G D Em
'Cause the players tried to take the field,
Am C
but the marching band refused to yield
G D Em
Do you recall what was revealed
C D7 G C G
the day the music died. //
G D7
I started singin' ...

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G C G D
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Em A7
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Em D7
This'll be the day that I die.

Verse 5:

G Am
And there we were all in one place,
C Am
A generation lost in space.
Em D
With no time left, to start again.

G D Em
So come on, Jack be nimble, jack be quick,
Am C
Jack flash sat on a candlestick.
Em A7 D7
'Cause fire is the devil's only friend.

Em Am
And as I watched him on the stage
Em Am
my hands were clenched in fists of rage.
C G A7
no angel born in hell
C D7
could break that satan's spell

G D Em
And as the flames climbed high into the night
Am C
to light the sacri-ficial rite
G D Em
I saw Satan laughing with delight,
C D7 G C G
the day the music died. //
G D7
we were singin' ...

Chorus:

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Verse 6:

G D Em
 I met a girl who sang the blues
 Am C
 So, I asked her for some happy news
 Em D
 but she just smiled and turned away.
 G D Em
 I went down to the sacred store.
 Am C
 Where I heard the music years before.
 Em C D
 But the man there said the music wouldn't play.
 Em Am
 And in the streets the children screamed,
 Em Am
 the lovers cried and the poets dreamed.
 C G Am
 But not a word was spoken.
 C D
 The church bells all were broken.

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Chorus 2:

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