

American Pie

Dave McLean

^G ^{G/F#} ^{Em} | ^{Am} | ^C | ^{Em} | ^D
A long, long time ago I can still remember how that music used to make me smile
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^C | ^{Am} | ^{Em}
and I knew if I had my chance that I could make those people dance and maybe they'd
^C | ^D | ^{Em} | ^C
be happy for a while
but February made me shiver with every paper I delivered,
^C ^{G/B} | ^{Am} | ^C | ^D
bad news on the door step, I couldn't take one more step,
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^C | ^D
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^C | ^D | ^G
but something touched me deep inside, the day, the music, died. So...

CHORUS

^G ^C | ^G ^D | ^G ^C | ^G ^D |
Bye, bye Miss American Pie drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry
an them good ol' boys were drinkin whiskey and rye
^{Em} | ^A |
singin this will be the day that I die,
^{Em} | ^D |
this will be the day that I die. %

^G | ^{Am} | ^C | ^{Am}
Did you write the book of love and do you have faith in God above,
^{Em} | ^D |
if the bible tells you so,
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^{Am} | ^C
and do you believe in rock n' roll, can music save your mortal soul
^{Em} | ^A | ^D |
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 | ^{Am} | ^C | ^D
you both kicked off your shoes and I dig those rhythm and blues.
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^{Am} | ^C
I was a lonely teenage bronkin buck with a pink carnation and a pick up truck
^G ^{G/F#} | ^{Em} | ^C | ^D | ^G | ^C |
but I knew I was out of luck, the day, the music, died.
^G | ^D |
I started singin...!

Chorus

Now for ten years we've been on our own and moss grows fat on a rollin 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
and 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 Lenin 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

Helter Skelter in a summer swelter the birds flew off with a fallout shelter,
eight miles high and fallin fast,
its the land that fallied 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 the sergeants played a marching tune
we all got up to dance oh but we never got the chance
oh as 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

Oh 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
because fire is the devils only friend,

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oh and as I watched him on the stage, my hands were clinched in fists of rage,
 no angel born in hell could break that satan's spell
 and as the planes climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial right
 I saw satan laughing with delight, the day, the music, died.
 He was singin...

Chorus

^{G G/F# | Em Am C}
 I met a girl who sang the blues and I asked her for some happy news
^{Em D}
 but she just smiled and turned away,
^{G G/F# | Em C | D |}
 I went down to the sacred store where I'd heard the music years before
^{Em Am? D}
 but the man there said the music wouldn't play

^{Em Am Em An}
 and in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried, and the poets dreamed
^{C C/B Am C/B C D}
 but not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken
^{G G/F# | Em C | D |}
 and the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost,
^{G G/F# | Em C | D | G}
 they caught the last train for the coast, the day, the music, died,
 and they were singin...

Chorus

They were singin... Bye, bye Miss American Pie drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy
 was dry an them good ol' boys were drinkin whiskey and rye singin this will be the day
 that I die. ^{G C | G |}