

American Pie

Don McLean

G D Em
A long long time ago
Am C
I can still remember how
Em D
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 remember if I cried
Am D
When I read about his widowed bride
G D Em
But something touched me deep inside
C D G
The day the music died
So

Chorus

G C G D
Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G C G D
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G C G D
Them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em A7
Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em D
This'll be the day that I die

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 D
And can you teach me how to dance real slow?

Em D
Well, I know that you're in love with him
Em D
Cause I saw you dancin' in the gym
C G Am
You both kicked off your shoes
C D
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 pickup truck
G D Em
But I knew I was out of luck
C D G C G
The day the music died
D
I started singin'

[Chorus]

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
When the jester sang for the king and queen
Am C
In a coat he borrowed from James Dean
Em A7 D
And a voice that came from you and me
Em D
Oh and while the king was looking down
Em D
The jester stole his thorny crown
C G Am
The courtroom was adjourned
C D
No verdict was returned
G D Em
And while Lenin read a book on Marx
Am C
The quartet practiced in the park
G D Em
And we sang dirges in the dark
C D G C G
The day the music died
D
We were singin'

[Chorus]

G Am
 Helter skelter in a 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 D
 With the jester on the sidelines in a cast
 Em D
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume
 Em D
 While sergeants played a marching tune
 C G Am
 We all got up to dance
 C D
 Oh, but we never got the chance
 G D Em
 Cause the players tried to take the field
 Am C
 The marching band refused to yield
 G D Em
 Do you recall what was revealed
 C D G C G
 The day the music died?
 D
 We started singin'

[Chorus]

G Am
 Oh, 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 D
 Cause fire is the devil's only friend
 Em D
 And as I watched him on the stage
 Em D
 My hands were clenched in fists of rage
 C G Am
 No angel born in Hell
 C D
 Could break that Satan's spell
 G D Em
 And as the flames climbed high into the night
 Am C
 To light the sacrificial rite

G D Em
 I saw Satan laughing with delight
 C D G C G
 The day the music died
 D
 He was singin'

[Chorus]

G D Em
 I met a girl who sang the blues
 Am C
 And 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'd 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
 G D Em
 And the three men I admire most-
 Am D
 the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost-
 G D Em
 They caught the last train for the coast
 C D G
 The day the music died

And they were singing

[Chorus – slow and quiet]

[Final Chorus]

G C G D
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
 G C G D
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
 G C G D
 Them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
 Am D G C G
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die