

AMERICAN PIE

Don McClean

PROLOGUE

G D/F# Em7
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO
C D
I CAN STILL REMEMBER
Em D
HOW THAT MUSIC USED TO MAKE ME SMILE
G D/F# Em7
AND I KNEW IF I ----HAD MY CHANCE
C D
THAT I COULD MAKE THOSE PEOPLE DANCE
Em A7 D
AND MAYBE THEY'D BE HAPPY FOR A WHILE
Em Am
BUT FEBRUARY MADE ME SHIVER
Em Am
WITH EV'RY PAPER I'D DELIVER
C G/B Am
BAD NEWS ON THE DOORSTEP
C D
I COULDN'T TAKE ONE MORE STEP
G D/F# Em7
I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I CRIED
C D
WHEN I READ ABOUT HIS WIDOWED BRIDE
G D/F# Em7
BUT SOMETHING TOUCHED ME DEEP INSIDE
C D G
THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

CHORUS

G C G D
SO 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 DRINKIN' WHISKEY AND RYE
Em A7
SINGIN' THIS'LL BE THE DAY THAT I DIE,
Em D7
THIS'LL BE THE DAY THAT I DIE
C D7 G C G
(Last Time) THIS WILL BE THE DAY THAT I DIE

VERSE 1

G Am
DID YOU WRITE THE BOOK OF LOVE
C G/B Am
AND DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD ABOVE?
Em D
IF THE BIBLE TELLS YOU SO
G D/F# Em
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE IN ROCK AND ROLL.
Am7 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/B A7
YOU BOTH KICKED OFF YOUR SHOES
C D7
MAN I DIG THOSE RHYTHM AND BLUES
G D/F# Em
I WAS A LONELY TEENAGE BRONCIN' BUCK

Am **C**
 WITH A PINK CARNATION AND A PICK-UP TRUCK
G **D/F#** **Em**
 BUT I KNEW THAT I WAS OUT OF LUCK
C **D7** **G** **C**
 THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
G **D7**
 I STARTED SINGIN'

(CHORUS)

VERSE 2

G **Am**
 NOW FOR TEN YEARS WE'VE BEEN ON OUR OWN
C **G/B** **Am**
 AND MOSS GROWS FAT ON A ROLLIN' STONE
Em **D**
 BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT USED TO BE
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 WHEN THE JESTER SANG FOR THE KING AND QUEEN
Am7 **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/B** **A7**
 THE COURTROOM WAS ADJOURNED,
C **D7**
 NO VERDICT WAS RETURNED
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 AND WHILE LENIN READ A BOOK ON MARX
Am **C**
 THE QUARTET PRACTICED IN THE PARK
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 AND WE SANG DIRGES IN THE DARK
C **D7** **G** **C**
 THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
G **D**
 WE STARTED SINGIN'

(CHORUS)

VERSE 3

G **Am**
 HELTER-SKELTER IN THE SUMMER SWELTER
C **G/B** **Am**
 THE BIRDS FLEW OFF WITH A FALLOUT SHELTER
Em **D**
 EIGHT MILES HIGH AND FALLIN' FAST
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 IT LANDED FOUL ON THE GRASS
Am7 **C**
 THE PLAYER 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 THE SERGEANTS PLAYED A MARCHING TUNE
C **G/B** **A7**
 WE ALL GOT UP TO DANCE
C **D7**
 BUT WE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 'CAUSE THE PLAYERS TRIED TO TAKE THE FIELD
Am **C**
 THE MARCHING BAND REFUSED TO YIELD
G **D/F#** **Em7**
 DO YOU RECALL WHAT WAS REVEALED

C D⁷ G C
THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
G D
WE STARTED SINGIN'
(CHORUS)

VERSE 4

G Am
AND THERE WE WERE ALL IN ONE PLACE
C G/B Am
A GENERATION LOST IN SPACE
Em D
WITH NO TIME LEFT TO START AGAIN
G D/F# Em⁷
SO COME ON, JACK BE NIMBLE, JACK BE QUICK
Am⁷ 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/B A⁷
NO ANGEL BORN IN HELL
C D⁷
COULD BREAK THAT SATAN'S SPELL
G D/F# Em⁷
AND AS THE FLAMES CLIMBED HIGH INTO THE NIGHT
Am C
TO LIGHT THE SACRIFICIAL RITE
G D/F# Em⁷
I SAW SATAN LAUGHING WITH DELIGHT
C D⁷ G C
THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
G D
HE WAS SINGIN'
(CHORUS)

POSTLUDE

G D/F# Em⁷
I MET A GIRL WHO SANG THE BLUES
C D
AND I ASKED HER FOR SOME HAPPY NEWS
Em D
BUT SHE JUST SMILED AND TURNED AWAY
G D/F# Em⁷
I WENT DOWN TO THE SACRED STORE
C D
WHERE I HEARD THE MUSIC YEARS BEFORE
Em A⁷ 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/B Am
BUT NOT A WORD WAS SPOKEN
C D
THE CHURCH BELLS ALL WERE BROKEN
G D/F# Em⁷
AND THE THREE MEN I ADMIRE THE MOST
C D
THE FATHER, SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST
G D/F# Em⁷
THEY CAUGHT THE LAST TRAIN FOR THE COAST
C D G
THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED
AND THEY WERE SINGIN'
(CHORUS *repeat)