

American Pie by Don McLean

[Verse 1]

G D/F# Em  
A long, long time ago  
Am C Em D Dsus4 D Dsus2 D  
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile  
G D/F# Em  
And I knew if I had my chance  
Am C Em C D  
Dsus4 D Dsus2 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 G/B Am C D  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step  
G D/F# Em C 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 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  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em\* A7\* Em\* D7  
D7sus2 D7 D7sus4 D7 D7sus2 D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

[Verse 2]

G Am  
Did you write the book of love  
C Am Em 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  
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 G/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]

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  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye

Em\* A7\* Em\* D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

[Verse 3]

G Am  
Now for ten years we've been on our own  
C Am Em D Dsus4  
D Dsus2 D

and moss grows fat on a rolling stone but that's not how it used to be

G D/F# Em  
When the jester sang for the king and queen

Am7 C Em A7 D  
in a coat he borrowed from James Dean in a voice that came from you and me

Em\* D\* Em\* D\*  
Oh, and while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown

C G/B A7 C D7  
The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned

G D/F# Em Am C  
And while Lennin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park

G D/F# Em C D7 G C G D  
And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin'

[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  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em\* A7\* Em\* D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

[Verse 4]

G Am  
Helter skelter in a summer swelter  
C Am Em D  
the birds flew off with a fallout shelter, eight miles high and fallin' fast  
G D/F# Em  
It landed foul on the grass  
Am7 C Em A7  
D  
the players tried for a forward pass, with the jester on the sidelines in a cast  
Em\* D\* Em\* D\*  
Now the half-time air was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune  
C G/B A7 C D7  
We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance  
G D/F# Em Am Cm C  
'Cuz the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield  
G D/F# Em C D7 G C G D  
Do you recall what was revealed the day the music died, we started singin'

[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  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em\* A7\* Em\* D7  
Singin' this will be the day that I die, this will be the day that I die

[Verse 5]

G Am  
And there we were all in one place  
C Am Em D Dsus4 D Dsus2 D  
a generation lost in space, with no time left to start again  
G D/F# Em Am7 C  
So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Flash sat on a candlestick  
Em A7 D  
'cause 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 G/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  
Bye, bye Miss American Pie  
G C G D  
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry  
G C G D  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em\* A7\* Em\* 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  
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  
wouldn't play

Em\* Am\* Em\* Am\*  
And in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets  
dreamed

C G/B Am C D  
But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken  
G D/F# Em C D  
And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost  
G D/F# Em C D G  
They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died,  
N.C.  
And they were singin'

[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  
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye  
Em\* A7 Em\* D7  
D7sus2 D7 D7sus4 D7 D7sus2 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 levee but the levee 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