

**American Pie**  
**Don McLean**

\* - strum once

[Verse 1]

**G D/F# Em7**  
A long, long time ago,  
**Am C Em D**  
I can still remember how that music used to make me smile  
**G D/F# Em7**  
And I know if I had my chance,  
**Am C Em C 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 Am C D**  
Bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step  
**G D/F# Em Am7 D**  
I can't remember if I cried when I read about his widowed bride  
**G D Em**  
Something touched me deep inside  
**C D7 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 levy but the levy 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 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 A7 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 broncin buck with a pink carnation and a pickup truck  
**G D/F# Em C D7 G C G**  
 But I knew I was out of luck the day the music died, I started singin

[Chorus]

**G C G D**  
 So bye, bye Miss American Pie  
**G C G D**  
 Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy 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**  
 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\***  
 And while the king was looking down, the jester stole his thorny crown  
**C G A7 C D7**  
 The courtroom was adjourned, no verdict was returned  
**G D/F# Em Am C**  
 And while Lenin read a book on Marx, the quartet practiced in the park  
**G D/F# Em C D7 G C G**  
 And we sang dirges in the dark the day the music died, we were singin

[Chorus]

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 And them good old boys were drinkin whiskey and rye  
**Em\* A7\* Em\* D7**  
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[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 at halftime there was sweet perfume, while sergeants played a marching tune  
**C** **G** **A7** **C** **D7**  
We all got up to dance, but we never got the chance  
**G** **D/F#** **Em** **Am** **C**  
Cuz the players tried to take the field, the marching band refused to yield  
**G** **D/F#** **Em** **C** **D7** **G** **C** **G**  
Do you recall what was the feel the day the music died, we started singin

[Chorus]

**G** **C** **G** **D**  
So bye, bye Miss American Pie  
**G** **C** **G** **D**  
Drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy 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**  
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 candle  
**Em** **A7** **D**  
stick, cuz 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** **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**  
I saw Satan laughing with delight the day the music died, he was singin

[Chorus]

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**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\***  
 But in the streets the children screamed, the lovers cried and the poets dreamed  
**C G Am C D**  
 But not a word was spoken, the church bells all were broken  
**G D/F# Em Am7 C D7**  
 And the three men I admire most, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost  
**G D/F# Em Am7 D7 G**  
 They caught the last train for the coast the day the music died,  
 N.C.  
 And they were singin

[Chorus]

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**C D7 G C G**  
 Singin this will be the day that I die.