

**Karen**  
**The National**

Artist: The National

Song: Karen

(This represents the author's own work and interpretation of the song. To be used only for private study, scholarship, or research)

[intro]

**G C** (repeat)

[verse]

**G C** (alternate)

Karen, I'm not taking sides

I don't think I'll ever do that again

I'll end up winning and I won't know why

I'm really trying to shine here, I'm really trying

You're changing clothes and closing windows on me all the time

[chorus]

**Cm Bb Ab Bb Cm**

Well, whatever you do, listen, you better wait for me

**Bb Ab Bb Eb**

No, I wouldn't go out alone into America

**Bb Cm**

Whatever you do

**Ab Eb**

Listen, and you better wait for me

**Bb Cm**

No, I wouldn't go out alone

[verse]

**G C** (alternate)

Karen, we should call your father, maybe it's just a phase

He'll know the trick to get a wayward soul to change his ways

It's a common fetish for a dotting man

to ballerina on the coffee table cock in hand

[chorus]

**Cm Bb Ab Bb Cm**

Well, whatever you do, listen, you better wait for me

**Bb Ab Bb Eb**

No, I wouldn't go out alone into America

**Bb Cm**

Whatever you do

**Bb Eb**

Listen, and you better wait for me

**Bb Cm**

No, I wouldn't go out alone

[middle]

**Bb Gm Dm Cm**

**Bb** **Gm**  
Without warm water in my head

**Dm**  
All I see is black and white and red

**Cm**  
I feel mechanical and thin

**Bb**  
Hear me play my violin again

**Gm**  
I m living in the target s shoes

**Dm**  
All I see is black and white and blue.

**Cm**  
Idle, idle, idle, idle, protect the nest

**G C**  
Protect the title

[verse]

**G C** (alternate)

Karen, put me in a chair, fuck me and make me a drink

I ve lost direction, and I m past my peak

I m telling you this isn t me

No, this isn t me

Karen, believe me, you just haven t seen my good side yet

[chorus]

**Cm Bb Ab Bb Cm**  
Well, whatever you do, listen, you better wait for me

**Bb Ab Bb Eb**  
No, I wouldn t go out alone into America

**Bb Cm**  
Whatever you do

**Bb Eb**  
Listen, and you better wait for me

**Bb Cm**  
No, I wouldn t go out alone

[end]

**Bb** **Gm**  
Without warm water in my head

**Dm**  
All I see is black and white and red

**Cm**  
I feel mechanical and thin

**Bb**  
Hear me play my violin again

**Gm**  
I m living in the target s shoes

**Dm**  
All I see is black and white and blue.

**Cm**

Idle, idle, idle, idle, protect the nest  
Protect the title

**Bb**

I must be me, I m in my head

**Gm**

Black birds are circling my bed

**Dm**

I must be me, I must be me

**Cm**

Black feathers are falling on my feet

**Bb**

**Gm**

Idle, idle, idle, idle, protect the nest  
Protect the title

**Dm**

**Cm**

Idle, idle, idle, idle, protect the nest  
Protect the title

[repeat]

[end]

**G C**