

## Emmylou Harris "Abraham, Martin And John"

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(Richard Holler)

I am a backseat driver from America  
They drive to the left on Falls Road  
And the man at the wheels name is Shamus  
We pass a the child on a corner he knows  
And Shamus says "now what chance has that kid got"  
And I say from the back "I don't know"

He says "there's barbed wire at all of these exits"  
There ain't no place in Belfast for that kid to go  
And it's a hard life, it's a hard life  
It's a very hard life  
It's a hard life wherever you go  
And we poison our children with hatred  
And the hard life is all that they know

At the dairyline in Chicago  
A fat man in front of me  
He's calling black people trash to his children  
And he's the only trash here I see  
And I'm thinking this man wears a white hood  
In the night when his children should sleep  
But they'll slip to their windows and see him  
They'll think that white hood's all they need

And it's a hard life, it's a hard life  
It's a very hard life  
It's a hard life wherever you go  
And if we poison our children with hatred  
Then the hard life is all that they know

I was a child of the sixties  
When dreams could be held through tears  
With Disney and Cronkite and Martin Luther  
And I belived, I believed, I believed

Now I'm a backseat driver from America  
And I'm not at the wheel of control

And I am guilty, I am worn, I am the root of all evil  
And I can't drive on the left side of the road

And it's a hard life, it's a hard life  
It's a very hard life  
It's a hard life wherever you go  
And if we poison our children with hatred  
Then the hard life is all that they'll know

And there ain't no place in this world for these kids to  
go  
Cause it's a hard life wherever you go

Has anybody here seen my old friend Abraham,  
Can you tell me where he's gone?  
He freed a lotta people, but it seems the good die  
young  
I just looked around and he's gone.

Has anybody here seen my old friend Martin,  
Can you tell me where he's gone?  
He freed a lotta people, but it seems the good die  
young  
I just looked around and he's gone.

Has anybody here seen my old friend John,  
Can you tell me where he's gone?  
He freed a lotta people, but it seems the good die  
young  
I just looked around and he's gone.

Didn't you love the things they stood for?  
Didn't they try to find some good in you and me?  
And we'll be free  
Someday soon it's gonna be one day

Has anybody here seen my old friend Bobby,  
Can you tell me where he's gone?  
I thought I saw him walkin' up over the hill  
With Abraham and Martin and John.

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