

Emmylou Harris

"It's A Hard Live Wherever You Go"

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(Nanci Griffith)

I am a backseat driver from America
We drive to the left on Falls Road
And the man at the wheel's name is Seamus
We pass a child on the corner he knows
And Seamus 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
And there ain't no place in Belfast for that kid to go

'Cause 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

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

'Cause 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

I was a child in the Sixties
When dreams could be held through T.V
With Disney and Cronkite and Martin Luther
And I believed, I believed, I believed
Now I am the backseat driver from America
And I am not at the wheel of control
And I am guilty, I am war, and I am the root of all evil
Lord, and I can't drive on the left side of the road

'Cause 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 those kids to
go
'Cause it's a hard life wherever you go

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