

## Harry Chapin "I Miss America"

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By the time I was thirteen  
I started taking shape.  
At eighteen I was so beautiful  
That the strangers started to gape.  
They said "Enter the ultimate contest  
If you're as gorgeous as you seem."  
They said "Please, please, please  
Be our American dream."  
But late that night beneath the grieving moon  
There's a dazzling sight in my motel room  
For a grunting judge with his bulging eyes  
I give my all for his cherished prize.  
Oh why, oh why?  
I'm Miss America  
Crying on TV  
Silver clad in satin rags,  
But everything's where it should be  
Oh say can you see, ah say can you see.  
After they showed me the game ball  
They told me put on weight.  
They told me I'd be powerful  
They told me I'd be great.  
And my Uncle Sam he would coach me  
His helmet on my head  
And they said "Please, please please, please  
Please win and beat the spread."  
But the new game plan that the owners had made  
Meant that win or lose there would be a trade.  
For the team's become a real gold mine  
And the kid's sold off for the bottom line.  
Oh why, oh why?  
Mr. America  
Sweating on TV  
The winner's joy from the battered boy  
For everything's where it should be  
Oh say can you see, ah say can you see.  
At last we've come together  
Call it marriage or civil war.  
If it brings us to battle, babe  
It must be worth our fighting for.  
Though today came up cloudy  
There will be other days.

"Ah, please, please, please, please  
What else is there to say?"  
But in plywood spread  
By a plastic stream  
And in separate beds with a borrowed dream  
And with questions wide and the silence deep  
We take two pills so at last we'll sleep.  
Oh why, oh why?  
Mr. and Mrs. America  
Our story's on TV  
Can you hear canned laughter  
For everything's where it should be  
Oh say can you see, ah say can you see.  
Well, my little boy he told me something  
Just the other night.  
He whispered it as I kissed him  
Before I turned out the light.  
And of course he said it simple  
As only children can  
He said "Daddy, daddy, daddy, please  
I'm ready to dream again."

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