

## **Kinks, The**

### **"Americana"**

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America, the land of the free, the home of the brave  
That's what I thought before I toured there  
You see, I've got myself being seduced by the sheer  
americana of it all  
And I'd seen their images on television  
Of lee harvey oswald, john f. kennedy's assassination  
And I thought "america is a violent place"  
And america is keen to trap you  
Like you had giant tentacles that wrapped themselves  
around you  
Until you couldn't move and you were trapped  
The land of the free, the home of the brave, guns and  
the wild west

Hey big fat cowboy, wearing your big stetson  
Hey big fat cowboy, flashing your big six gun  
Hey big fat cowboy, singing country & western  
Hey big fat cowboy, is this the way that the west was  
won? yeah

I found myself in the back of a big ford thunderbird  
With a slick-looking dude  
He looked like a punk from a b-movie,  
The sort of punk that would piss everybody off  
Until lee marvin put a bullet through his brain  
The punk looked over at me  
"kinks? what kind of a motherfuckin' name is that? "  
Then he reached over and picked up the car telephone  
"hey kid, I've got elvis presley's phone number.  
I've got ann-margret's phone number. I've fucked ann-  
margret!"  
I knew mick avory would be impressed with this, but I  
was not  
And then the punk looked over at me  
"i'll dial elvis presley" he dialed a number  
"hey, is that you elvis? I wanna speak to the colonel.  
Jump to it, you mother!"  
And then he looked over at me in a menacing way,  
Reached into the glove-compartment and took out a  
revolver  
He waved the six gun around, menacingly

"you see kid, when I deal with people, they have to  
treat me right,  
Otherwise they contend with this! a gun!  
Have you ever seen a gun before? "  
I hadn't  
Then he waved it around, put it back in the glove-  
compartment  
"welcome to peoria, illinois, home of middle america,  
Ice-cream and apple pie, guns and the wild west"

All american wise guy, why achieve that gleam in the  
sun  
Hamburger and a milkshake, all american dude  
Popcorn and a t-bone, hot dog with a big smile  
And a bad attitude, yeah yeah yeah

Flying across america on a twa, flying to california  
To appear on television, performing our new record set  
me free  
The kinks were met by a union man with a contract to  
sign  
And the kinks didn't like signing contracts  
"hey, are you the kinks? sign this piece of paper guys!  
I want you to sign this union-document so you can  
appear on television"  
"no thanks mate, we don't wanna sign a contract"  
"you have to sign, otherwise you cannot appear"  
"we don't want to sign a piece of paper, alright!"  
"listen kid, you sign the piece of paper.  
You with your red hunting jackets and your yellow frilly  
shirts.  
Sign the piece of paper!"  
"do you wanna sign it? " he looked over at dave  
"watcha gonna do kid? " "fuck off!"  
Which is a fairly reasonable thing to say in the  
circumstances,  
But not very wise, you see, the man was a union  
executive  
"alright. once I file my report on you guys  
You're never gonna work in america again.  
You're gonna find out just how powerful it is in  
america!"  
The land of ice-cream and apple pie, guns and the wild  
west

Great american union rules with the fist, a smile and a  
gun  
Great american napalm lights up the sky like the sun  
Great american eagle swoops down from the sky up  
above

And I remember the images of lee harvey oswald  
Appearing on tv saying he was a patsy  
A union man is a-framin' the kinks  
While I thought "this is the land of opportunity"  
But the cosa nostra are everywhere  
Land of ice-cream and apple pie

Hey big fat cowboy, wearing that big six gun  
Hey big fat cowboy, singing country & western  
Hey big fat cowboy, moving that big six gun  
Hey big fat cowboy, is this the way that the west was  
won?  
Yeah yeah yeah

And 6 weeks later robert and grenville and larry  
Were sitting in their office in carnaby street  
And the letter came from the american government  
It was from the american federation of musicians union  
"a band known as the kinks,  
The english beat group known as the kinks,  
Are banned from america.  
Their license to perform has been revoked indefinitely"  
Yeah, all the same fuck off  
In the land of the ice-cream and apple pie, guns and  
the wild west

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