

Grand Canyon

Ani Difranco

I love my country
By which I mean, I am indebted joyfully
To all the people throughout its history
Who have fought the government to make right
Where so many cunning sons and daughters
Our foremothers and forefathers
Came singing through slaughter
Came through hell and high water
So that we could stand here
And behold breathlessly the sight
How a raging river of tears
Cut a grand canyon of light
Yes, I've been so many places
Flown through vast empty spaces
With stewardesses whose hands
Look much older than their faces
And I've tossed so many napkins
Into that big hole in the sky
Been at the bottom of the Atlantic
Seething in a two-ply
Looking up through all that water
And the fishes swimming by
And I don't always feel lucky
But I'm smart enough to try
Cause humility has buoyancy
And above us only sky
So I lean in
Breathe deeper that brutal burning smell
That surrounds the smoldering wreckage
That I've come to love so well
Yes, color me stunned and dazzled
By all the red white and blue flashing lights
In the American intersection
Where black crashed head on with white
Comes a melody, comes a rhythm
A particular resonance
That is us and only us
Comes a screaming ambulance
A hand that you can trust
Laid steady on your chest
Working for the better good
Which is good at its best
And too, bearing witness
Like a woman bears a child
With all her might
Born of the greatest pain
Into a grand canyon of light
And no song has gone unsung here
And this joint is strung crazy tight
And people been raising up their voices
Since it just ain't been right
With all the righteous rage
And all the bitter spite

That will accompany us out
Of this long night That will grab us by the hand
When we are ready to take flight
Seat back and tray table
In the upright and locked position Shocked to tears by each new vision
Of all that my ancestors have done
Like say, the women who gave their lives
So that I could have one People, we are standing at ground zero
Of the feminist revolution
Yeah, it was an inside job, stoic and sly
One we're supposed to forget and downplay and deny But I think the time is nothing
If not night to let the truth out
Coolest f-word ever deserves a fucking shout I mean why can't all decent men and women
Call themselves feminists?
Out of respect for those who fought for this
I mean, look around, we have this Yes, I love my country
By which I mean, I am indebted joyfully
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