

# Joke About Jamaica

## The Hold Steady

They used to think it was so cute  
When she said, "Dyer Maker"  
All the boys knew it was a joke about Jamaica  
She'd always find a ride back home from the bar  
She used to feel so stupid when they'd talk about the music  
Born into every single tune  
They used to hum against her lips with their hands on her hips  
They used to kiss in the car  
Dancing days, houses of the holy  
Hotshot in the city in the middle of the prairie  
Flirting with the boys with all her charms  
But first they laugh, then they eyes then the touch 'em on the arm's  
And the drinks, they never seem to cost money  
And Saturday night was a runway  
That extended into Sunday and sometimes Monday  
Back then it was beautiful, the boys were sweet and musical  
The laser lights looked mystical, messed up stuff felt magical  
Girls didn't seem so difficult, boys didn't seem so typical  
It was warm and white and wonderful, we were all invincible  
Tired eyes, trampled under foot  
Dazed and confused, c-c-cocaine blues  
She hasn't got any eye contact tonight  
The boys are getting younger and the bands are getting louder  
And the new girls are coming up like some white unopened flowers  
She's pretty sure that that's where their power is  
Back then it was unified, the punks, the skins, the greaser guys  
Then one summer, two kids died and one of them was crucified  
Now it's so competitive, the sleeplessness and sedatives  
I know it sounds repetitive, every show can't be a benefit  
We were kids in the crowd now we're dogs in this war  
We were wasps with new wings, now we're bugs in the jar  
We were hot, soft and pure, now we're scratched up in scars  
We were counting cards, now we eat in our cars  
The boys in the band they know they'll never be stars  
Back then they were quite convinced, firing and sickering  
The front row girls were posturing, we were all imagining  
And man, we had some massive nights  
Some bashes and some bloody fights back before those two kids died

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