

# Great American Novel

## The Silent Comedy

Written by Larry Norman

I was born and raised an orphan  
in a land that once was free  
in a land that poured its love out on the moon  
and I grew up in the shadows  
of your silos filled with grain  
but you never helped to fill my empty spoon

when I was ten you murdered law  
with courtroom politics  
and you learned to make a lie sound just like truth  
but I know you better now  
and I don't fall for all your tricks  
and you've lost the one advantage of my youth

you kill a black man at midnight  
just for talking to your daughter  
then you make his wife your mistress  
and you leave her without water  
and the sheet you wear upon your face  
is the sheet your children sleep on  
and at every meal you say a prayer  
you don't believe but still you keep on

and your money says in God we trust  
but it's against the law to pray in school  
you say we beat the russians to the moon  
and I say you starved your children to do it

you are far across the ocean  
in a war that's not your own  
and while you're winning there  
you're gonna lose the one at home  
do you really think the only way  
to bring about the peace  
is to sacrifice your children  
and kill all your enemies

the politicians all make speeches

as the news men all take note  
they exaggerate the issues  
as they shove them down our throats  
is it really up to them  
whether this country sinks or floats  
I wonder who would lead us  
if none of us would vote

well my phone is tapped and my lips are chapped  
from whispering through the fence  
you know every move I make  
or is that just coincidence  
well you try to make my way of life  
a little less like jail  
if I promise to make tapes and slides  
and send them through the mail

and your money says in God we trust  
but it's against the law to pray in school  
you say we beat the russians to the moon  
and I say you starved your children to do it  
you say all men are equal, all men are brothers  
then why are the rich more equal than others  
don't ask me for the answers, I've only got one  
that a man leaves his darkness when he follows the Son

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