

# Wasteland Of The Free

Iris DeMent

Living in the wasteland of the free...

We got preachers dealing in politics and diamond mines  
and their speech is growing increasingly unkind  
They say they are Christ's disciples  
but they don't look like Jesus to me  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

We got politicians running races on corporate cash  
Now don't tell me they don't turn around and kiss them peoples' ass  
You may call me old-fashioned  
but that don't fit my picture of a true democracy  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

We got CEO's making two hundred times the workers' pay  
but they'll fight like hell against raising the minimum wage  
and If you don't like it, mister, they'll ship your job  
to some third-world country 'cross the sea  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

Living in the wasteland of the free  
where the poor have now become the enemy  
Let's blame our troubles on the weak ones  
Sounds like some kind of Hitler remedy  
Living in the wasteland of the free

We got little kids with guns fighting inner city wars  
So what do we do, we put these little kids behind prison doors  
and we call ourselves the advanced civilization  
that sounds like crap to me  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

We got high-school kids running 'round in Calvin Klein and Guess  
who cannot pass a sixth-grade reading test  
but if you ask them, they can tell you  
the name of every crotch on mTV  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

We kill for oil, then we throw a party when we win  
Some guy refuses to fight, and we call that the sin  
but he's standing up for what he believes in  
and that seems pretty damned American to me  
and it feels like I am living in the wasteland of the free

Living in the wasteland of the free  
where the poor have now become the enemy  
Let's blame our troubles on the weak ones  
Sounds like some kind of Hitler remedy  
Living in the wasteland of the free

While we sit gloating in our greatness  
justice is sinking to the bottom of the sea  
Living in the wasteland of the free  
Living in the wasteland of the free  
Living in the wasteland of the free