

# The Great Compromise

John Prine

I knew a girl who was almost a lady  
She had a way with all the men in her life  
Every inch of her blossomed in beauty  
And she was born on the fourth of July  
Well she lived in an aluminum house trailer  
And she worked in a juke box saloon  
And she spent all the money I give her  
Just to see the old man in the moon

I used to sleep at the foot of Old Glory  
And awake in the dawn's early light  
But much to my surprise  
When I opened my eyes  
I was a victim of the great compromise

Well we'd go out on Saturday evenings  
To the drive-in on Route 41  
And it was there that I first suspected  
That she was doin' what she'd already done  
She said "Johnny won't you get me some popcorn"  
And she knew I had to walk pretty far  
And as soon as I passed through the moonlight  
She hopped into a foreign sports car

I used to sleep at the foot of Old Glory  
And awake in the dawn's early light  
But much to my surprise  
When I opened my eyes  
I was a victim of the great compromise

Well you know I could have beat up that fellow  
But it was her that had hopped into his car  
Many times I'd fought to protect her  
But this time she was goin' too far  
Now some folks they call me a coward  
'Cause I left her at the drive-in that night  
But I'd druther have names thrown at me  
Than to fight for a thing that ain't right

I used to sleep at the foot of Old Glory  
And awake in the dawn's early light  
But much to my surprise  
When I opened my eyes  
I was a victim of the great compromise

Now she writes all the fellows love letters  
Saying "Greetings, come and see me real soon"  
And they go and line up in the barroom  
And spend the night in that sick woman's room  
But sometimes I get awful lonesome  
And I wish she was my girl instead  
But she won't let me live with her  
And she makes me live in my head

I used to sleep at the foot of Old Glory  
And awake in the dawn's early light  
But much to my surprise

When I opened my eyes  
I was a victim of the great compromise