

# The President's Dead

Okkervil River

"The President's dead," the radio said  
Dear friends, is it not so horrible?  
A shock through my heart like a knife right through bread  
The newspaper said "The President's dead."  
The sea doesn't dry and the sky isn't split  
But friends it just seems so wrong, don't it?  
A shout from the crowd and a shot in the head  
The President's lying on the tarmac dead  
He's lying face down, with those black-dressed agents  
Guns drawn, running around and the early obits  
Say he was a good man you can't argue with that  
Not today you can't not now you can't  
In the media tent where they spin and they slant  
They just foam at the mouth and they champ at the bit  
Those bloodsuckers can wait; tell those vultures "cool it"  
The newscaster said "The President's dead."  
And let's imagine the way, let's say thirty years in  
How somebody will say, "What were you doing when?"  
On a beautiful day I was waking up, and  
I was lying in bed with my girlfriend  
And the eggs on the plate, and the bacon hissing  
And the coffee was great; there was spring on the wind  
If you ever lived through a day where the littlest things  
In the littlest ways, made you feel you were blessed?  
And if you died right then, well, you know you'd be missed  
But there's no better state to cease to exist  
And you wouldn't feel sad, and you wouldn't resist  
Cause you knew what you'd had and were thankful for it  
In your own little way, I'm a small quiet man  
I've got no wars to win; I don't have a big plan  
But I love my new place, and I love my old friends  
And I scrimp and I save, and one day I'll have kids  
I can truthfully say that my day was like that  
Til the radio playing on the stand by the bed  
Fired out this report and in three words they said  
Like three shots to my head "The President's dead." oh The Pres  
ident's dead  
The President's dead, the President's dead, (the President's de  
ad)  
Oh the President's dead, the President's dead (the President's  
dead)