

What is the American Dream? Whose Dream is It?

There Are No Cats In America from An American Tail

Won't it be nice when we get to America?
In america there are not cats!
But back home in mother Russia...
Aaah...

Our Family was travelling through the snow to Minsk
Suddenly Papa saw those huge paw prints
When I heard him screaming I fainted dead away
And I woke up an orphan
Oy vay. But... but?

But there are no cats in America
And the streets are paved with cheese
Oh there are no cats in America
So set your mind at ease

you think a-things were a-bad in a-Russia
you should a-see things in a-my country!

Times were hard in Sicily we had a-no provolone
The Don he was a tabby with a taste for my brother Tony
When Mama went to plead a-for him the Don said he would see her
We found her rosary on the ground
poor Mama mia. But...

But there are no cats in America
And the streets are paved with cheese
Oh there are no cats in America
So set your mind at ease

Sure, that's sad, but sadder still...

When I was but a lad I lost my true love fair
A calico, he caught us by surprise
In a flash of teeth and fur her tail was all he left of her
'Neath a heather is where Tura Lura lies. But...

But there are no cats in America
And the streets are paved with cheese
(There are no cats in America)
Oh there are no cats in America
(And the streets are paved with cheese)

So set your mind at ease
(Oh there are no cats in America)

But there are no cats in America
(So set your mind at ease)
And the streets are paved with cheese
(But there are no cats in America)

That's why we sail these seas!

AMERICA

ROSALIA

Puerto Rico,
You lovely island . . .
Island of tropical breezes.
Always the pineapples growing,
Always the coffee blossoms blowing . . .

ANITA

Puerto Rico . . .
You ugly island . . .
Island of tropic diseases.
Always the hurricanes blowing,
Always the population growing . . .
And the money owing,
And the babies crying,
And the bullets flying.
I like the island Manhattan.
Smoke on your pipe and put that in!

OTHERS

I like to be in America!
O.K. by me in America!
Ev'rything free in America
For a small fee in America!

ROSALIA

I like the city of San Juan.

ANITA

I know a boat you can get on.

ROSALIA

Hundreds of flowers in full bloom.

ANITA

Hundreds of people in each room!

ALL

Automobile in America,
Chromium steel in America,
Wire-spoke wheel in America,
Very big deal in America!

ROSALIA

I'll drive a Buick through San Juan.

ANITA

If there's a road you can drive on.

ROSALIA

I'll give my cousins a free ride.

ANITA

How you get all of them inside?

ALL

Immigrant goes to America,
Many hellos in America;
Nobody knows in America
Puerto Rico's in America!

ROSALIA

I'll bring a T.V. to San Juan.

ANITA

If there a current to turn on!

ROSALIA

I'll give them new washing machine.

ANITA

What have they got there to keep clean?

ALL

I like the shores of America!
Comfort is yours in America!
Knobs on the doors in America,
Wall-to-wall floors in America!

ROSALIA

When I will go back to San Juan.

ANITA

When you will shut up and get gone?

ROSALIA

Everyone there will give big cheer!

ANITA

Everyone there will have moved here!

The American Dream

From Miss Saigon

ENGINEER:

my father was a tattoo artist in Haiphong
but his designs on mother didn't last too long
my mother sold her body, high on Betel nuts
my job was bringing red-faced monsieurs to our huts
selling your mom is a wrench
perfume can cover a stench
that's what I learned from the French

then it all changed with Dien Bien Phu
the frogs went home. Who came? Guess who?
are you surprised we went insane
with dollars pouring down like rain?
businessmen never rob banks
you can sell (junk) and get thanks
that's what I learned from the Yanks

I'm fed up with small-time hustles
I'm too good to waste my talent for greed
I need room to flex my muscles
in an ocean where the big sharks feed
make me Yankee, they're my fam'ly
they're selling what people need

what's that I smell in the air
the American dream
sweet as a new millionaire
the American dream
pre-packed, ready-to-wear
the American dream
fat, like a chocolate éclair
as you suck out the cream

luck by the tail
how can you fail?
and best of all, it's for sale
the American dream

greasy chinks make life so sleazy
in the States I'll have a club that's four-starred
men like me there have things easy
they have a lawyer and a body-guard

to the Johns there I'll sell blondes there
that they can charge on a card

what's that I smell in the air?
the American dream
sweet as a suite in Bel-air
the American dream
girls can buy (breasts) by the pair
the American dream
bald people think they'll grow hair
the American dream
call girls are lining time square
the American dream
bums there have money to spare
the American dream
cars that have bars take you there
the American dream
on stage each night: Fred Astaire
the American dream

shlitz down the drain!
pop the Champagne!
it's time we all entertain
my American dream!

ENGINEER and CROWD

come ev'ryone, come and share
the American dream
name what you want and it's there
the American dream
spend and have money to spare
the American dream
live like you haven't a care
the American dream
what other place can compare
the American dream
come and get more than your share
the American dream

there I will crown
Miss Chinatown
all yours for ten percent down