

This Land is Your Land

Woody Guthrie



Chorus:

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream water,
This land was made for you and me.

1. As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me.

Chorus

2. I roamed and I rambled and I followed my footsteps
O'er the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
While all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me.

Chorus

3. When the sun came shining, and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
A voice was chanting, as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

Chorus

Guthrie's original 1940 version included these verses:

In the squares of the city, in the shadow of the steeple
In the relief office, I seen my people;
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking,
Is this land made for you and me?

Chorus

As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.

Chorus

Originally titled "God Blessed America," Guthrie wrote this as a parody of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." When Guthrie started writing the song in 1940, the last line in the chorus was "God blessed America for me," which Guthrie eventually changed into "This land was made for you and me." It evolved into a protest anthem as generations of folk singers performed the song, but it is often misinterpreted as a patriotic song. The lyrics express Guthrie's belief that the working class should have the same rights as the rich.

Guthrie used the melody from a Carter Family song "When the World's on Fire" for this song with a few changes.

The song was written in 1940 but was not recorded by Guthrie until 1944.