

No One Is Illegal

Words and music by Peter Brunette

1.

D **A7** **D** **Em** **A7**
It broke her heart to see him go—goodbyes were not her forte—
D **Bm** **Em** **A7**
But the only way he could feed their kids was to head up to *el norte*.
D **A7** **D** **Bm** **F#m**
You frown upon migration, so then why d'you go and spark it
Bm **Em** **F#m** **Bm** **F#m** **A7**
By dumping your protected corn on the Mexican market?
D **A7** **D** **Em** **A7**
You think of your Amerika as white and Anglo-Saxon.
D **Bm** **Em** **A7**
You say it ain't his country that he sweats and pays his tax in,
D **A7** **D** **Bm** **F#m**
But he's just as American as a bald eagle.
Bm **Em** **F#m** **Bm** **F#m** **A7**
He's just an American. No one is illegal.

2.

D **A7** **D** **Em** **A7**
There's dozens of Americas a gal can hang her hat in,
D **Bm** **Em** **A7**
Some black, some aboriginal, and more than twenty Latin.
D **A7** **D** **Bm** **F#m**
When she worked in El Salvador for a couple bucks an hour,
Bm **Em** **F#m** **Bm** **F#m** **A7**
She sewed those fancy suits you wear up in your high-rise tower.
D **A7** **D** **Em** **A7**
Yet now you start to harbour unkind sentiments toward her
D **Bm** **Em** **A7**
Because she sought to improve her lot on the wrong side of the border,
D **A7** **D** **Bm** **F#m**
But she's just as American as a bald eagle.
Bm **Em** **F#m** **Bm** **F#m** **A7**
She's just an American. No one is illegal.

3.

D **A7** **D** **Em** **A7**
You founded your Amerika as upstarts and newcomers
D **Bm** **Em** **A7**
On lands that had been settled for some fifteen thousand summers.
D **A7** **D** **Bm** **F#m**
You didn't ask my people if we favoured immigration

Bm Em F#m Bm F#m A7
Before you crossed an ocean to declare your proud, young nation.
D A7 D Em A7
I'm one of those whose lives were scarred by that fateful decision,
D Bm Em A7
The man you call an Indian and lock up in a prison,
D A7 D Bm F#m
But I'm just as American as a bald eagle.
Bm Em F#m Bm F#m Bm
I'm just an American. No one is illegal.

ENDING:

F#m Bm F#m Bm
No one is illegal. *(Repeat ad lib. and fade)*