

# Papa Was A Rolling Stone

## Was (Not Was)

It was the third of September  
That day I'll always remember, yes I will  
'Cause that was the day that my daddy died  
I never had a chance to see him  
Never heard nothin' but bad things about him  
Mama I'm depending on you to tell me the truth  
Mama looked up and said son  
Papa was a rolling stone  
Wherever he laid his hat was his home  
And when he died all he left us was alone  
Where the hell are you daddy, that's what I'm sayin'  
Down on my knees and tears and I'm prayin'  
Wishing and hoping my dreams could come true  
So I could feel like the other kids do  
A young child but not complete as a whole  
Before I was born you up and strolled  
Mama was there but you was up in the wind  
You never even knew my name and then  
You never wrote, called, let alone came by  
As a youth it was hard to wonder why  
But now I'm older and I don't dwell on self pity  
Thinking about the life you didn't give me  
I remember when I used to tell lies  
When people would ask I'd just fantasize  
Thinking of stories to make you look good  
But the real truth was you was never no good  
People would say I looked just like you  
But rest assured I don't act like you  
I'm more than that, my mama raised me better  
And you can best believe I'm much more together  
So believe that  
Mama is it true what they say  
That papa never worked a day in his life?  
And mama there's some bad talk goin' round town  
That papa had three out-side children  
And another wife, and that ain't right  
Heard some talk about papa  
Doin' some store-front prechin'  
Talking about saving souls and all the time leaching

Dealin' in dirt and stealing in the name of the Lord  
Mama looked up and said son  
Papa was a rolling stone  
Wherever he laid his hat was his home  
And when he died all he left us was alone

It's been said you gave me something you never had  
But that's not always true and it's sad  
To find myself missing you when I did

But who knows the reasons why you did what you did  
I can't help but wonder why  
You lived your life as a big fat lie  
You act like you had no responsibilities

'Cause if you did it's a bet that you wouldn't be  
Stealin' beggin' hustlin' and schemin'  
You could'a got a job

But did you know the meaning of work  
I'm talking about an honest day's pay  
But you was too lazy to be that way  
Always trying to take the easy route

That's what they tell me, so I don't doubt  
It for a moment, not for a sec  
Because you lacked all your self respect  
But it's too late for you that is

Tomorrow I'll be going on about my biz  
And so it's time to put the past behind  
Erase the anger and clear my mind  
I want to forget the little bit I know  
And make sure that I never sink so low

'Cause I want my kids to grow up and know  
That I was always there because I loved them so  
And that's the least thing that I can do  
But that's a lot more than I got from you  
I heard papa call himself a jack of all trades

Tell me is that what sent papa to an early grave?  
Folks say papa would beg, borrow or steal  
To pay his bills

Hey mama, folks say papa wasn't much on thinkin'  
Spent most of his time chasing women and drinkin'  
Mama I'm depending on you to tell me the truth  
Papa was a rolling stone  
Wherever he laid his hat was his home  
And when he died all he left us was alone

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