

If I

Ex-Voto

If I hadn't been a quiet introspective kid
If I hadn't been a nerd, wouldn't have met with him
 If we hadn't observed we'd be the best of friends
That preferred the spoken word to the toke and binge
 If momma hadn't died when I was young
 Would me and sis been so tight from jump?
 If dad hadn't lost his mind to a disease
 Would I be up here askin' ya'll to notice me?
In the dark times, didn't know where the path went
I was close to the edge like Grand Master Flash said
 It was hands of my friends that held me back
Yes, without them I'd MJ keep slidin' backwards
 Or be a hypocrite like some others have been
 If that and the other hadn't happened
 Don't know that I'd ever been Brer Rabbit
Askin' how many if's between hero and has-been?
 If I, if I, if I had only known
 That I would be a lamb to the slaughter
 Now I know
 If I, if I, if I had only known
 I know, I bet it only makes me stronger
 Now I know, now I know
 Now I know, know, know
 Now I know, now I know
 Now I know, know, know
 If I hadn't grown up in the 80's
Experiencing the various things that made me
 Would I still be standing center stage
 Trying to innovate new ways to demonstrate?
If mommy-daddy hadn't turned off Mork and Mindy
 To inform us divorce was pending
Would him and me have spent these 23 years in a frenzy
 Moving back and forth with such forceful energy?
 I remember when I was a little baby
 Lying there alone on my pillow casing
 Upset already I could feel the aging
 The urge to return was debilitating
 And maybe I'm still afraid and need to
 Cry a little harder for the world of play things

Stop looking back on these silly day dreams
Sing along with me if you feel the same way

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If I had known what awaited was unplanned
If I had known the blade was in a loved one's hand
If I had known of the possible injury
If I had known the altar was meant for me
But now I know nobody can predict events

And now I know there's cracks in the picket fence
Now I know that something else exists
And now I know a life can be built from this
If I had known emotions would still remain
If I had known that time wouldn't heal the pain

If I had known the intent of the injury
If I had known the altar wasn't meant for me
Now I know there's treasure hidden in these scars
Now I know there's presence in an empty yard
Now I know what it took for me to survive
But now I know where to go to become alive

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