

# If I

## Rathbone

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 tokes and binges  
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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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 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  
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  
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