

# Before Jessie Died

**Tom T. Hall**

She sat on the bar stool, she smoked and she drank  
Till the past became clear and the future went blank  
In the path she regains all her beauty and pride  
But that was before Jessie died Jessie, her husband was small, he was lean  
Drove a big yellow earth moving machine  
They had a new pick-up, the joy of their lives  
But that was before Jessie died She used to go shopping for pretty young clothes  
And her hair done Thursdays and her nails and her toes  
And on weekends they danced till the first morning light  
But that was before Jessie died On weekends they'd cook out and watch all the games  
Jessie knew all of the best players names  
The sunshine so bright it put tears in your eyes  
But that was before Jessie died When Jessie got sick he was thirty years old  
They said, "It ain't nothing but a little light cold"  
And he worked till the pain wouldn't ease or subside  
And that was before Jessie died Now she sits on the stool with a glass in her hand  
She smiles and she talks to a travelin' man  
And there was time she would turn down a ride  
But that was before Jessie died She sat on the bar stool, she smoked and she drank  
Till the past became clear and the future went blank  
In the path she regains all her beauty and pride  
But that was before Jessie died

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