

Twenty Years Ago

Montgomery Gentry

I was at that smart ass time of my life
Where I'd pick a fight, just to pick a fight
 If he said, black, I said white
If he took one side, I took the other side
 The dinner table we sat around
 Was more like a battleground
 And I lost more times than I won
 I would,'t learned later on
 That he was always preaching about his past
 I just kept screaming, ?Come on, dad?
That was twenty years ago, you don't know me at all
 You trying to talk to you is like talking to the wall
 Yeah, you gave me my life, but it's my life to live
Maybe I don't wanna live it like you did, twenty years ago
 He was built with blue collar sweat and blood
 Squared jaw and a crew cut
 A purple heart, a Viet vet
 He'd tell you every chance he'd get
 Always running down my rock and roll
 My friends, my hair, my clothes
 But one night it got out of control
 And right there we came to blows
 And that was just enough to get me gone
 I couldn't wait to prove him wrong
 Twenty years ago struck out on my own
 Couldn't tell me nothing, I didn't already know
 Later I was on my way to what the hell did I care
My old man and his gray hair, thought about the road I chose
 Twenty years ago
 Well, I left as fast as the leaves fell that autumn
 I never looked back and I never once called him
 But every time I talked to mama
 I wondered if he was there, or if he even cared
I figured I walked out on him and the course of our love had run
 Momma said, no, no, you listen to me, son
 He's a stubborn man and he won't give in
He believes what he believes and you're just like him
 I could tell by her voice there was something wrong
 She broke down and said he ain't got long

So I caught the next plane home, thought about all the years gone
Had my pride that I let so much time go by
I ran up those stairs and stood by his bed and I cried
Twenty years ago I thought I knew it all
But trying to talk to me was like talking to a wall
I thought I was a man acting like I did
But all I want right now is just to be your kid
Just before my dad gave up the ghost
He took my hand and said
Son, let it go, that was twenty years ago
Twenty years ago

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