## **Not To Blame**

## Joni Mitchell

The story hit the news from coast to coast They said you beat the girl you loved the most Your charitable acts seemed out of place And the beauty with your fist marks on her face Your buddies all stood by They bet their fortunes and their fame That she was out of line And you were not to blame Six hundred thousand doctors are putting on rubber gloves And they're poking at the miseries made of love They say they're learning how to spot the battered wives Among all the women they see bleeding through their lives I'd bleed for your perversity These red words that make a stain On your white-washed claim that She was out of line And you were not to blame I heard your baby say when he was only three "Daddy, let's get some girls one for you and one for me" His mother had the frailty you despise And the looks you love to drive to suicide Not one wet eye around Her lonely little grave Said, "He was out of line girl You were not to blame"

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