

# You Had To Be There

Kenny Rogers

He sat down, picked up the phone and said Boy, I'm your old man  
He touched the glass between the two, as if to shake his hand  
The boy he didn't budge, not even so much as a blink  
The man said oh come on, boy, better late than never, don't ya think  
He said I read it in the paper, can't believe  
you're 21  
And I can't believe some son of mine could do the things I hear you've done  
He went on like some big hero, who flew in to save the day  
And the boy said if your here, to steer me right, man, its too late  
You had to be there, and I'm talkin' from from  
day one  
That's the only time a dad should talk through glass to his new son  
You'd have to go back, and teach me how when I was nine  
Cause my mama couldn't throw a ball even if she had the time  
I should have been learning how to fish, instead of learning how to smoke  
I bet if you'd of whooped my tail, I'd never thought it was a joke  
He said sometimes the will for doing wrong is way too strong for any mama's prayers  
You had to be there  
The man said, boy, I'm sorry that you hate me like you do  
The boy said dry it up man, we ain't making this about you  
Its about a teenage girl against the world cause she was left there high and dry  
Its about a kid who might have stood a whole lot better shot at life  
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Cause my mama couldn't throw a ball even if she had the time  
I should have been learning how to fish, instead of learning how to smoke  
I bet if you'd of whooped my tail I'd never thought it was a joke  
He said sometimes the will for doing wrong is way too strong for any mama's prayer  
You had to be there  
Before the boy hung up the phone, he said they say me I'm out of time  
And it hit the man, right there and then  
My god son, so am I

Songwriters

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