

# This Old Town

Janis Ian

This old town should have burned down in 1929  
That's when we stood in line  
Waiting for our soup while swallowing our pride  
This old town should have burned down in 1931  
When the rain refused to come  
Air filled up our bellies  
Dust filled up our lungs  
And we thought our time had come

But this old town was built by hand  
In the dustbowl of the motherland  
There must be rock beneath this sand  
I'll be damned - this town still stands

This old town should have burned down in 1944  
When the last man went to war  
They came back different, if they came back at all  
This old town should have burned down in 1956  
That's when the twister hit  
All our hopes lay buried beneath the boards and bricks  
And we almost called it quits

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There must be rock beneath this sand  
I'll be damned - this town still stands

Somewhere in the distance  
The city lights do shine  
Sidewalks gleam with neon dreams  
That call from time to time  
When my children's children ask me  
Why I didn't go  
I'll say - the heart of any town  
Is the people that you've known  
And they always call you home

This old town was built by hand  
In the dustbowl of the motherland  
There is be rock beneath the sand  
I'll be damned - this town still stands