

# Twenty Years Ago

Montgomery Gentry

I was at that smartass 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 woulda 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  
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 that I didn't already know  
Later I was on my way to what the hell did I care  
My old man and his grey 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, well, you're just like him

Well, 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 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