

At Seventeen

Janis Ian

(Intro) Gadd9 G GM7 G6 G x 2 times

G Gadd9 G GM7 G6 G Am11 Am7 E/A Am7

I learned the truth at seventeen that love was meant for beauty queens

D7/F# Gadd9 G GM7 G6 G (intro)

And high school girls with clear skinned smiles who married young and then retired

G Gadd9 G GM7 G6 G Am11 Am7 E/A Am7

The valentines I never knew The Friday night charades of youth

D7/F# Gadd9 G GM7 G6 G (intro)

Were spent on one more beautiful at seventeen I learned the truth

Bb6 Am7 D7

And those of us with ravaged faces lacking in the social graces

Gm7 Cm7 Gm7 Cm7

Desperately remained at home inventing lovers on the phone

EbM7 D7 D7sus Gm7 Cm7

Who called to say "come dance with me" and murmured vague obscenities

Am7 D7/F#

It isn't all it seems at seventeen

A brown eyed girl in hand me downs whose name I never could pronounce

Said: "pity please the ones who serve they only get what they deserve"

The rich relationed hometown queen marries into what she needs

With a guarantee of company and haven for the elderly

So remember those who win the game lose the love they sought to gain

In debitures of quality and dubious integrity

their small-town eyes will gape at you In dull surprise when payment due

exceeds accounts received at seventeen

(Interlude)_

To those of us who knew the pain of valentines that never came

And those whose names were never called when choosing sides for basketball

It was long ago and far away the world was younger than today

When dreams were all they gave for free to ugly duckling girls like me...

We all play the game, and when we dare we cheat ourselves at solitaire

Inventing lovers on the phone repenting other lives unknown

That call and say: "come on, dance with me" and murmur vague obscenities

At ugly girls like me, at seventeen

