Nineteen Years Old

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Intro: Cadd9 Am F Em
Verse 1:
C Em
When she was just nineteen years old and I was twenty-three,
${ m Em}$ It seemed the right place and time for us to part company.
Dm F C G F
No arguments, no big regrets, perhaps we'd meet again.
Dm F C G F
And small town life was closin' in, a world without enough oxygen.
Dm G7 C G Am
While a voice kept whisperin' to me, "Go find some great grand destiny".
${f G}$
What with all the other fish out in the sea,
C G F Em F G C
She bein' just nineteen years old; me just twenty-three.
Verse 2:
"Join the Navy, See the World": turned out just Vietnam.
Came back worked factories, fields, and farms, across this great wide land.
A man believes what he wants to believe, but he becomes what he does.
After too many battles, so many scars, his reasons devolve into "just because".
But in my mind from time to time, she'd still appear to me,
Smilin' back there in my memory,
When she was just nineteen years old, and I was twenty-three.
Verse 3:
l heard she'd married, raised two sons; now full-grown, on their own.
Divorced and teachin' school these years; comfortable, alone.

Me I'd gone from gal to gal, with impatience I couldn't shake.

I don't know what I was lookin' for, were the decades—just a mistake?

If we'd stayed on those years ago, how different might things be?

Oh, the effect she had on me,

Now I'm back here in this place I thought I'd never see again.

Buildings and streets all put in since I left way back then.

My ragged shoes retrace the stones that lead to her front door.

I guess what I left so long ago was what I ran off lookin' for.

Once fancy-free, now refugee; then a kind woman opens the door to me.

And behind all the lines in her smile I see,

C G F Em F C

She's still just nineteen years old. And to her, I'm twenty-three.

When she was just nineteen years old, and I was twenty-three.