

Jeannie C. Riley

"What Was Her Name"

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Oh what was her name she used to sit next to me in
math
Had the saddest eyes I'd ever seen and like me she
was only sixteen
What was her name she was so silent and strange
Then the word leaked out and time brought about the
truth and the tragedy began
She was only sixteen and married and married to a
law-breaking man
And lovin' him and trustin' him as only a young girl can
He looked so exciting and different to the eyes of this
innocent child
He said I'll marry you and carry you through a life
exciting and wild
Oh what was her name I see her so well in my mind
Especially that day right after school when I saw her for
the last time
The sheriff's car was there she looked so small and
alone
As they put her inside and drove out of sight I was
scared and ran all the way home
They were tryin' to make her betray him but she
refused to understand
How the love of her life could be mixed up with a dirty
thieving man
So she never said a word against him and finally they
set her free

When she met him that night she was surprised when
he said
That's the last time you'll squeal on me
When the first bell rang the next morning she was
sittin' on the schoolhouse steps
Leaning 'gaist the rail she looked so pale I asked a
friend if she was asleep
The last bells rang and still she didn't move as we all
started to class
So June went over to her sayin' come on the last bells
has rang
That's when she saw the knife in her back oh heck what
was her name

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