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Joni Mitchell "Jeremy"

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Jeremy sits in the sun And he stares at the stripes on the floor From the bars on the door Thinking of rabbits he kept as a child In a chicken wire cage

He remembers the rage of his father The night he made his one call The relative stranger who left him to fall To the mercy of judges with no shield at all Now he sits and he stares at the punishing wall

Mary, sweet Mary, it's dark and it's cold It's all of the stories you've ever been told Keep the jar on the window, keep the lock on the door Keep your mind on the man, keep away from the store

Jeremy picks up the crayon he saved And he writes in the dark and he thinks of the park And the flowers he gave to the girl with the bells He remembers her smile, it was gone at the trial

Hear the footsteps of night guards patrolling the halls There are coughers and talkers who don't sleep at all Midst the curse words and worse words that someone had scrawled Now he writes her a poem on the punishing wall

Jeremy gentle, oh, Jeremy kind As you walk with the thieves and the killers Believe that our numbers are growing The change has to come, put resentment aside Don't turn bitter and die

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