

## **Kris Delmhorst**

### **"Mary Lou"**

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A little girl walked out one day and said woe is me  
Things just aren't the way I thought they'd be  
So please don't make me turn 30, don't make me turn  
16  
If the rest of life is anything like what I've seen

Cause I know that I'm a goner and I know it won't be  
long  
Cause I see on every billboard they tell me I'm all  
wrong  
They say you're taking too much time girl, you take up  
too much space  
You better stake yourself a claim before you lose that  
face

But I see you and you're different and to me you look  
so free,  
You live your life the way you think it ought to be  
And your body's not a prison or a weapon or a curse  
You say "I'm gonna love each passing year for better or  
worse" for good or worse

When I grow up I want to be like you, marylou  
When I grow up I want to be like you  
I want to be a wise woman and a little girl too  
When I grow up I want to be like marylou

The little girl said they tell me, "boys will be boys,  
You gotta let them take the wheel and let them make  
the noise,  
You gotta let them keep believing you're underneath  
their thumb  
Cause they won't cause you so much trouble if you  
learn to play dumb."

But I see you and you're smiling, living on your own  
Your paintbrush and your poems and you'll never be  
alone  
You've got work to sustain you, you've got friends to  
hold your hands  
You say "life is just as beautiful as I think I can stand"

When I grow up I want to be like you, marylou  
When I grow up I want to be like you  
I want to do the things that people just don't do  
When I grow up I want to be like marylou

A little girl said well tell me, can this be,  
Can the world be asking so much of me?  
To give up my own body, my dreams and my name,  
To give my hands to carrying the whole world's shame?

But you're not your father's keeper, you're not your  
mother's pain,  
You're not your brother's anger or your sister's rain,  
You're not your lover's chew toy and you're not the  
world's excuse,  
You say "my life just got so beautiful the day I turned it  
loose"

When I grow up I want to be like you, marylou  
When I grow up I want to be like you  
I want to be a wise wise woman, want to be a little girl  
too  
When I grow up I want to be like marylou

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