

Kris Delmhorst

"Marylou"

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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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