

**Paul Simon****"Can I Forgive Him 602"**

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**ESMERALDA**

I am Esmeralda AgrÃ³n, SeÃ±ora.  
I know I've no right to speak.  
My son is not the savage boy you see,  
The cape, the sneer, the slicked-back hair  
It hides the child I nursed and bathed,  
SeÃ±ora.  
Please don't turn your eyes from me  
Your son, gone to God, and mine to blame  
My fated son,  
He too is gone  
The state will see to that, I am sure,  
SeÃ±ora  
The state will see to that, I am sure.

**1ST MOTHER**

You Spanish people, you come to this country  
Nothing here changes your lives  
Ungrateful immigrants asking for pity  
When all of your answers are knives  
This city makes a cartoon of a crime  
Capes and umbrellas the glorification of  
slime  
I have to face this horror, SeÃ±ora.

**2ND MOTHER**

My religion  
Asks me to pray for the murderer's soul  
But I think you'd have to be  
Jesus on the cross  
To open your heart after such a loss  
Can I forgive him?  
Can I forgive him?  
No, I cannot  
Can I forgive him  
No, I cannot

Friends become strangers  
Compassion is hard to express in words  
The trembling flowers they bring  
Fear in the roots and the stem

What happened to me they know could happen  
to them.

Can I forgive him

No, I cannot

Can I forgive him

No

ESMERALDA

Only God can say 'Forgive'

His son too received a knife

But we go on, we have to live

With this cross we call our life

1ST MOTHER

Feels like a bomb fell

And wave after wave come the aftershocks

2ND MOTHER

You can't believe that it's true

There must be some mistake

You drift through this nightmare from which  
you can't wake

BOTH MOTHERS

Can I forgive him?

Can I forgive him,

No, I cannot

Can I forgive him?

Can I forgive him, no, I cannot

Can I forgive him?

Can I forgive him, no, I cannot

Can I forgive him

No, I cannot.

Lead Vocal, Acoustic Guitar-Paul Simon

Recorded at Paul Simon's home

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