

## Case 795 (The Family)

John Mellencamp

Tony Jones stabbed Alice Jones  
On their first anniversary  
Down in Dallas, Texas  
In a small apartment  
With nobody present.  
He pulled out a knife  
And he stuck it to her.  
He left her bleeding  
On the floor in the kitchen  
With cake on her fingers  
And her wedding ring holding.  
In her hand was a note  
That said the wicked must suffer  
And he drove off quickly  
To his girlfriend's apartment.  
But who really suffers in the end?  
It's easy enough for us to pretend that

Everything's all right with the family.  
Everything is safe here at home.  
Everything's all right with the family.  
The beds are made but there's no sheets on.

From the courtroom stand  
Tony said he was sorry.  
That he was sad and mixed up,  
And he didn't know what he was doing,  
That he'd always loved Alice  
And he begged for forgiveness.  
So he threw himself  
On the mercy of the jury  
And he told how his father  
Had beat and abused him  
Back in grade school  
In the basement den,  
And that maybe prison  
Was the best thing for him.  
And he said, "Oh God, can you forgive me?" yeah  
But who really suffers in the end?  
It's easy enough for us all to pretend that

Everything's all right with the family.  
Everything is safe here at home.  
Everything's all right with the family.  
The beds are made but there's no sheets on.

How many days does it take to make us weak?  
And how many hours do people spend lonely?  
In the heart of the heart the family lay dying  
The ruin of a nation lies at our feet, yeah.

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