

# Can I Forgive Him

Paul Simon

[ESMERALDA]

I am Esmeralda Agron, Senora.  
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, Senora.  
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, Senora  
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, Senora.

[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 t 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.