

# The Riverbank

Paul Simon

Frightened by the tone of a phone  
In the dead of night  
Then staring into darkness  
And praying till the morning light  
The price already paid  
A son gone to the grave  
Now the sorrowful parade  
To the riverbank

Must be half the county come down  
To the riverbank  
High school is closed  
Same for the local police  
Shall we tearfully embrace  
Shall we sing "Amazing Grace"  
Will the shallow river waters bring us peace

Army dude  
Only son  
Nowhere to run  
No one to turn to  
He turns to the gun  
It's a cross  
It's a stone  
It's a fragment of bone  
It's a long walk home

A long walk home  
Gonna be a long walk home  
From the riverbank

Is there any reason why the black pine  
Should not weep  
Is there a woman or a man who wouldn't understand  
Why he could not sleep  
And the nightmares when they came  
Like poison to the brain  
Reminded him again  
Life is cheap

Army dude  
Only son  
Nowhere to run  
No one to turn to  
He turns to the gun  
It's a cross  
It's a stone  
It's a fragment of bone  
It's a long walk home

A long walk home  
Gonna be a long walk home  
From the riverbank

Army dude's mama  
At the edge of the river  
Limp as a rag

American flag in her arms  
Then a triangle of light  
Kissed the red and blue and white  
Along the riverbank  
Past the dealerships and farms