

# Reclaim The Night

Peggy Seeger

RECLAIM THE NIGHT  
(Peggy Seeger)

Though Eve was made from Adam's rib  
Nine months he lay within her crib  
How can a man of woman born  
Thereafter use her sex with scorn?  
For though we bear the human race  
To us is given but second place  
And some men place us lower still  
By using us against our will

If we choose to walk alone  
For us there is no safety zone  
If we're attacked we bear the blame  
They say that we began the game  
And though you prove your injury  
The judge may set the rapist free  
Therefore the victim is to blame  
Call it nature, but rape's the name

CHORUS: Reclaim the night and win the day  
We want the right that should be our own  
A freedom women have seldom known  
The right to live, the right to walk alone without fear

A husband has his lawful rights  
Can take his wife whene'er he likes  
And courts uphold time after time  
That rape in marriage is no crime  
The choice is hers and hers alone  
Submit or lose your kids and home  
When love becomes a legal claim  
Call it duty, but rape's the name

And if a man should rape a child  
It's not because his spirit's wild  
Our system gives the prize to all  
Who trample on the weak and small  
When fathers rape, they surely know  
Their kids have nowhere else to go  
Try to forget, don't ask us to  
Forgive them -- they know what they do (CHORUS)

When exploitation is the norm  
Rape is found in many forms  
Lower wages, meaner tasks  
Poorer schooling, second class  
We serve our own, and, like the men  
We serve employers -- it follows then  
That bodies raped is nothing new  
But just a servant's final due

We've raised our voices in the past  
And this time will not be the last  
Our bodies' gift is ours to give  
Not payment for the right to live

Since we've outgrown the status quo  
We claim the right to answer "No!"  
If without consent he stake a claim  
Call it rape, for rape's the name

(CHORUS)

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