

## Past Like a Mask

Rodney Crowell

I was told to be a man was build defences strong  
Keep your woman in her place and she'll keep hangin' on  
Now I've grown to realise my life's been filled with lies  
A tread I've been hangin' on has broken in her eyes  
If I could let my heart be known in spite walls so high  
I might taste those bitter tears that I've never learned to cry

But I've got a paast like a mask  
And I can see it in her face, the many years I can't erase  
A broken heart I can't replace in spite of what I try  
But I've got a pa-ast like a mask  
And I sure took my time to understand

When I was young, not long ago, I hid my feelings well  
Sometimes I let my heartaches show but I could never tell  
And now I find I've been blind, insensitive and vain  
Cause someone told me long ago "ignore a woman's pain"  
If I could change the fool I've been, I know just what'd do  
I'd give her everything I can and make all her dreams come true

But I've got a past like a mask  
And I can see it in her eyes, the lonely nights, the endless li  
es  
The countless time I made her cry when she was by my side  
And I've got a past like a mask  
And I sure took my time to understand