

# I Was Beautiful

Tom Paxton

I was beautiful, my Jackie told me so  
But that was long ago, and far away  
But I was beautiful; he was my soldier boy  
We had one taste of joy, then they sent him away  
And I was terrified, I sat up half my nights  
The radio said the fights were terrible, many were slain  
And then, that golden day, I answered the telephone  
My soldier boy was home, home safe again  
And we went to the pictures, and we went to the sea  
We had a life of our own to live, my Jackie and me  
Oh, the summers came and went, and the children grew  
I was still beautiful to him and love was still new  
We were older now, the children moved away  
Then came the longed-for day when Jackie retired  
At first, he seemed content, he did some gardening  
There was a garden swing that he rewired  
But as the time went by, he seemed to drift away  
He found it hard to pay attention, his memory grew dim  
The kids all rallied 'round, they loved their daddy so  
He didn't seem to know, they were strangers to him  
Though we'd been to the pictures, and we'd been to the sea  
We'd had a life of our own to live, my Jackie and me  
Oh, the summers had come and gone and the children grew  
I was still beautiful to him and love was still new  
I was terrified and I was all alone  
The children had their homes; I know that's life  
And my soldier boy, who used to kiss my hands  
Now fails to understand that I'm even his wife  
He sits and stares at me, and there is nothing there  
He doesn't seem to care what happens to him or to me  
But I was beautiful; he was my soldier boy  
We had our taste of joy in my own memory  
But did we go to the pictures; did we go to the sea  
Did we have a life of our own, my Jackie and me  
Oh, the summers came and went, and the children grew  
Was I ever beautiful to him  
Was love ever new  
Was I ever beautiful to him  
Was love ever new