

Cracks in the Sidewalk

Background: We tend to look at the past with rose colored glasses, softening if not filtering out the bad things. They remain with you but more in your subconscious. As a child you overlook some of the bad things. The world around you is all you know and you think it must be the same for everyone. This song is about a guy who goes back to his old hometown and finds it deteriorating. It might indeed be deteriorating but was probably never as great as he remembers. This is not an autobiography of course. My hometown actually looks better now than it did when I was young. But many don't. And maybe that's the point.

Written: 2024

Verse

This sidewalk is full of cracks
My hometown has gone to hell
Broken like mamma's back
It's just a shell of itself

I used to play ball over there
Now that court's full of broken glass
Nets ripped off, rims bent, rusted
Syringes lay in the grass

We played football on that field
Baseball in that old lot too
Now they're all just ghost towns
Except for the homeless few

Chorus

Cracks in the sidewalk
Windows blown out
Stores boarded up
Trash blows about
My hometown don't look the same anymore
Cracks in the sidewalk
Good times are all gone
Everyone I knew
Has long since moved on
Cracks like scars
Over memories hanging on

Verse

My old high school is abandoned
They shut it down long ago
Couldn't get no one to teach there
Even the cops were afraid to go

Just a skeleton of itself
Half the letters fallen off the wall
Bullet holes scar the windows
And still echo down empty halls

Chorus

Cracks in the sidewalk
Windows blown out
Stores boarded up
Trash blows about
My hometown don't look the same anymore

Cracks in the sidewalk
Good times are all gone
Everyone I knew
Has long since moved on
Cracks like scars
Old memories hanging on

Bridge

A stray dog barks 'neath the overpass
Searching for food in the park
Even he's got nowhere better to be
Another soul lost in the dark
Sirens pierce the silence
Something must be going down
So fierce is the violence
Here in my old hometown

Verse

They don't bother to fix anything
Nothing new will stay new long
Ain't no one new comin' round here anyway
No one feels like they belong

Into my car I make my getaway
That's the last time I'll be going back
There's nothing left for me there
Except sidewalks full of cracks

Chorus

Cracks in the sidewalk

Windows blown out

Stores boarded up

Trash blows about

My hometown don't look the same anymore

Cracks in the sidewalk

Good times all gone

Everyone I knew

Has moved on

Cracks like scars

Over memories hanging on