

To Jennifer - Age 15

words & music by Maggie Savage

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In the summer of 1975, a number of young women disappeared from Lake Sammamish State Park (near Seattle). Months later, authorities found their bones on a deserted hillside above Issaquah, ten miles away. This piercing song, inspired by those events, was written by Seattle singer-songwriter Maggie Savage. It can be heard on the Northwest Folklife Festival album, performed by Maggie and Jude Fogelquist.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above or below the notes. The lyrics are: "It happened on a Wednesday, on a summer af-ter-noon. You tel-e-phoned to say you'd be home soon Now the din-ner is cold and the dishes are cleared, a phone call for Jennifer, she isn't here." The chords include Dm7, Dm6, Dm, D, A9, A7, and Dm7.

It happened on a Wednesday, on a summer af-ter-noon.
You tel-e-phoned to say you'd be home soon
Now the din-ner is cold and the dishes are cleared,
a phone call for Jennifer, she isn't here.

The vigil goes on long into the night.
Your parents are frightened, something's not right.
You're such a straight arrow and it's not like you to stray,
And you left your contact lenses on the table today.

By now it's Friday and the police have come by,
To ask a lot of questions and try to guess why,
A young girl with nothing to gain, so bright,
Would choose to be gone so many nights.

Your mother is frightened and her eyes tend to stare,
And she talks to the shadow of a daughter -- not there.
The silence is deafening, the light's off in your room,
And helplessness encircles the house like a tomb.

It's happened to many, you're not alone,
Young girls missing from family and home.
But that doesn't help or ease the pain,
Or sever the nightmares in your mother's brain.

Months have gone by, and something is found.
Hair and bones scattered all over the ground.
And dental records will give the last clue,
That what they've discovered is what's left of you.

What kind of changes must be made in our land,
To insure that women won't be prey to such men.
It's too bad Jennifer can't be with us here today,
At a time and place known by one man, she lost her right to say.