



If Only

By Marcus Lander (2007)

*If you can see your child grow up without you ...
- She's missing out - you're paying for it too!
You'd love to care for her but all men doubt you:
There will be no allowance made for you.
If you must wait, when you are tired of waiting,
And being lied about is no surprise;
The final verdict is discriminating,
And specifies your ultimate demise.*

*If there's a choice, you'll find you're not the master;
If there's a fault, you'll find you are to blame;
If you're the world's best dad, or simply a disaster
They'll call you an impostor just the same.
And you must bear to hear the lies they've spoken,
And act respectful to a pack of fools.
You see the things you gave your life to, broken:
But mending 'em's confounded by the rules.*

*If they can make one heap of all your winnings
And for your protest could not give a toss;
And you must start again at your beginnings
And no-one gives a damn about your loss ...
If they can tear your heart and nerve and sinew,
The loving bond of family union - gone,
And though impassioned justice cries within you,
No voice of conscience calls to them: "Hold on!"*

*Oh, you may boast the kingliest of virtue,
You may be blessed to have the kindest touch;
Perhaps you think that justice won't desert you,
But to the law these things don't count for much.
You will be squeezed, your life-force slowly draining
No matter how you try to turn and run,
And so there's really no point in complaining.
- If only you weren't born a man, my son!*