

## **Crumblin' Down**

(John Mellencamp)

Some people ain't no damn good  
You can't trust 'em you can't love 'em  
No good deed goes unpunished  
And I don't mind bein' their whippin' boy  
I've had that pleasure for years and years  
No no I never was a sinner--tell me what else can I do  
Second best is what you get 'til you learn to bend the rules  
And time respects no person--what you lift up must fall  
They're waiting outside to claim my tumblin' walls

Saw my picture in the paper  
Read the news around my face  
And now some people don't want to treat me the same

When the walls come tumblin' down  
When the walls come crumblin' crumblin'  
When the walls come tumblin' tumblin' down

Some people say I'm obnoxious and lazy  
I'm uneducated--my opinion means nothin'  
But I know I'm a real good dancer  
Don't need to look over my shoulder to see what I'm after  
Everybody's got their problems--ain't no new news here  
I'm the same old trouble you've been havin' for years  
Don't confuse the problem with the issue girl  
It's perfectly clear  
Just a human desire to have you come near

Wanna put my arms around you  
Feel your breath in my ear  
You can bend me you can break me  
But you'd better stand clear

When the walls come tumblin' down  
When the walls come crumblin' crumblin'  
When the walls come tumblin' tumblin' down

"Crumblin' Down" was written by Mellencamp and longtime writing partner George Green. It was the last song recorded for Uh-Huh; after listening to the masters for the other tracks recorded, Mellencamp decided that the album needed a song that would work as the album's lead single. He contacted Green, with whom he had previously written "Hurts So Good," to solicit ideas. Green had begun a song with lines about walls crumbling down; he and Mellencamp then built the song by trading lines, attempting to top one another.

According to Green, the song attempts to answer the question of what to do when success eventually fades, and "the big-time deal falls through." The song touches on Mellencamp's fame as well as the frustrations of losing one's livelihood: the lyrics were inspired, in part, by Mellencamp's cousin losing his job as an electrical engineer.

The video for "Crumblin' Down" received heavy play on MTV. It featured a chain-smoking Mellencamp in intentionally ripped denim jeans, dancing and kicking over chairs. "Crumblin' Down" was the first single released by Mellencamp to include his real last name: previous releases were credited to "John Cougar."

"Crumblin' Down" was the lead single from Uh-Huh, following his previous hit single "Hand to Hold on To" (from 1982's *American Fool*) to the Billboard Top 40, where it debuted October 22, 1983. It peaked at number 9 on that chart and at number 2 on the Mainstream Rock chart.

"Crumblin' Down" is also included on Mellencamp's greatest hits compilations *The Best That I Could Do 1978–1988* and *Words & Music: John Mellencamp's Greatest Hits*.

In the Season 2 of the hit 1980s TV series *Knight Rider*, an episode titled "White Line Warriors" features the song playing on the radio when burglaries in a small town take place.