



# THE KIDS ARN'T ALRIGHT

Dexter Holland

THE OFFSPRING

1999

Columbia Records

The third single from the album **Americana**. Chart: #6 (Alternative). Time - 3:00. Flip Side: "Pretty Fly / Walla Walla". Released in U.S.A. September 21, 1999.

Recorded at Eldorado Recording, Burbank, California, USA, 1998. Produced by **Dave Jerden**. Engineered by **Bryan Carlstrom**.

Inspired by The Who song 'The Kids Are Alright'. It is about the problems of people in a certain town growing up. Holland observed that growing up in America did not always give you a bright future, contrary to what is suppose to be the case. It was played at the Woodstock 99 festival a couple of months before being released as a single, although it was already out on the album. It was played on the closing credits to the film on the festival, 'Woodstock 99: Peace, Love & Rage'. -- Larry --



## Dexter Holland - Billboard

"I was driving around the block [in Garden Grove] thinking of all the stuff that had happened to everyone growing up there. This one had a nervous breakdown; another guy got killed in a driving accident. You grow up in America and [you re supposed to] have such a bright future, and it s really not that way."

## Dexter Holland - Joey Ramone interview

"I wrote that one by driving through my old neighborhood one night, I was thinking about the kids who had lived in all these houses and as I started thinking about them, I thought, "This person ended up in jail, this person died." I started thinking, "This sounds like a song.' .... I had no idea we'd all have this Columbine stuff six months later. Maybe it was a thing that was kind of coming. .... Part of what frustrates me is there's such a niche of people, adults mostly, looking to find someone to point the finger at. They want to have someone to blame. They want to blame Marilyn Manson."

## Greg Kriesel - Bottom Line

"We just wanted to show a different side to things. The Kids Aren t Alright was based on the people who grew up in our neighborhood. A lot of people came out and are doing fine. But the song is about the people who didn t make it out and whose lives didn t turn out the way they wanted them too."

## Dexter Holland - 2012:LocalBozo

"So maybe the one that surprised me the most would probably be The Kids Aren t Alright because it s very much not meant to be a popular, commercial type single. It s very much a punk rock anthem kind of song but it seemed to really resonate with people. It still gets played a lot on the radio."

## Personnel

**Dexter Holland** - lead vocals, lead/rhythm guitar  
**Noodles** - lead guitar  
**Greg K** - bass, backing vocals  
**Ron Welty** - drums

## YOU TUBE STUDIO TRACK VIDEO

## YOU TUBE LYRIC VIDEO

## YOU TUBE LIVE 1999, Woodstock 99 festival, Rome, New York, USA

ROCK'S  
GREATEST  
HITS

When we were young, the future was so bright  
Woah-oh  
The old neighborhood was so alive  
Woah-oh  
And every kid on the whole damn street  
Woah-oh  
Was gonna make it big and not be beat  
Now the neighborhood's cracked and torn  
Woah-oh  
The kids are grown up, but their lives are worn  
Woah-oh  
How can one little street swallow so many lives?  
Chances thrown  
Nothing's free  
Longing for, used to be  
Still it's hard, hard to see  
Fragile lives  
Shattered dreams (go!)

Jamie had a chance, well, she really did  
Woah-oh  
Instead she dropped out and had a couple of kids  
Woah-oh  
Mark still lives at home 'cause he's got no job  
Woah-oh  
He just plays guitar and smokes a lot of pot  
Jay committed suicide  
Woah-oh  
Brandon OD'd and died  
Woah-oh  
What the hell is going on?  
The cruelest dream, reality  
Chances thrown  
Nothing's free  
Longing for, used to be  
Still it's hard, hard to see  
Fragile lives  
Shattered dreams (Go!)

Chances thrown  
Nothing's free  
Longing for (what), used to be  
Still it's hard, hard to see  
Fragile lives  
Shattered dreams

ROCK'S  
GREATEST  
HITS