

## Mary Chapin Carpenter "Stones In The Road"

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When we were young, we pledged allegiance  
Every morning of our lives  
The classroom rang with children's voices  
Under teacher's watchful eye

We learned about the world around us  
At our desks and at dinnertime  
Reminded of the starving children  
We cleaned our plates with guilty minds

And the stones in the road  
Shone like diamonds in the dust  
And then a voice called to us  
To make our way back home

When I was ten, my father held me  
On his shoulders above the crowd  
To see a train draped in mourning  
Pass slowly through our town

His widow kneeled with all their children  
At the sacred burial ground  
And the TV glowed that long hot summer  
With all the cities burning down

And the stones in the road  
Flew out beneath our bicycle tires  
Worlds removed from all those fires  
As we raced each other home

And now we drink our coffee on the run  
We climb that ladder rung by rung  
We are the daughters and the sons  
And here's the line that's missing

The starving children have been replaced  
By souls out on the street  
We give a dollar when we pass  
And hope our eyes don't meet

We pencil in, we cancel out  
We crave the corner suite

We kiss your ass, we make you hold  
We doctor the receipt

And the stones in the road  
They fly out from beneath our wheels  
Another day, another deal  
Before we get back home

Stones in the road  
Leave a mark from whence they came  
A thousand points of light or shame  
Baby, I don't know

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