

Natalie Merchant

"Because I Could Not Stop For Death"

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because I could not stop for Death,
he kindly stopped for me
the carriage held but just ourselves
and Immortality

we slowly drove, he knew no haste,
and I had put away
my labor, and my leisure too,
for his civility

we passed the school where children played
their lessons scarcely done.
we passed through fields of gazing grain,
we passed the setting sun, we passed the setting sun.

we paused before a house that seen
a swelling of the ground
the roof was scarcely visible,
the corners were around, the corners were around.

since then 'tis centuries but each
feels shorter than the day
Since I first surmised the horses' heads
it wore eternity, it wore eternity.

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