

## **Rickie Lee Jones**

### **"Driving away"**

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the man in the starry tie  
led me talking backwards  
across the waving chips  
i spoke fantastic, like a prophet  
like a piece of blood  
where no doors are

and weary now i set upon the good year  
and the wrench  
wrenching out of me every  
ready of light  
that i might get it right  
and walk away  
into the metro sunset  
the golden metro may

and now across the plains  
take your child  
the highway sign, banana trees,  
windows parted and hoping  
see the flat faced delicatessen  
sweeping up the afternoon  
pick up little pieces of meetings  
and on your way  
here is the donut shop  
here is the early morning light  
where i would drool in chlorine  
yes here is the early early mornings i spent training

and here is the highway  
chasing 'j's' out on his empty skin  
looking for license plates  
and liquor stores  
over there is new mexico  
and down there is corpus  
you can find my mother and me wrapped up in a warm  
scotch on the rocks  
the numbing ice of each others eyes  
looking just like now  
for relief

there is no direction but past

every thing else is passive  
but if you would seek me  
seek me there  
in a field  
or a gas station  
in my american mothers arms  
before she is too medicated  
to remember  
how to say my name

say it gently, just once more  
for me mother  
with the sounds of trucks and distant trains  
with the gold sticks  
and the burnt skin of prayer  
bathe me once again  
in hot oil  
silence and long, long days  
car keys and dash board lights  
bears in the garbage  
that sweet honeycomb  
of memory  
don't weave the web too tight  
don't catch me tonight  
speak to me in cool lines  
the steering wheels turning  
where ever we go  
dinner approaches

the fire light  
of high beam and lipstick  
laughing the red midwest  
her curled curtains  
wild and a strand of me stuck in her mouth  
wet always an outsider  
to the cities i create

the entire east comes upon me and i  
reeling in stars  
grip the wheel  
a good girl, really  
just don't know how to stop  
this thing

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