

## Old Downtown

Laura Cantrell

I went for a walk in my old downtown  
To the top of the hill and I turned around  
Train yard's not what it used to be  
The station's still standing by the factories  
Wendell's serving up the meat and three  
The tower lights read L & C

Stood by the stone for the president  
Saw the bullet holes where the armies met  
Walked for a while with the suffragettes  
You know mama's still growing those roses yet  
Heard the echo of Bryan in the old court case  
And I thought as I walked about love and hate

Passed a soldier boy with a gun of bronze  
Made a film of his life said he had a cause  
Didn't want to kill didn't want to die  
Felt the lightening flash took it as a sign  
That god is love and jesus saves  
And our soldier does participate

Alvin came to New York with his fortune made  
And he walked for a mile in the ticker tape  
The mayor smiled while Alvin prayed  
"Sir I'd like to ride that subway train"  
Shimmers on film like a summer day  
Silver black and white, watch it fade away...

I left this place at a tender age  
In the family book you know I turned the page  
Never could describe all the energy  
Wakes me up at night with the memory  
Mama don't you call me I'm good as gone  
You know your daughter loves you but she heard this song

Church bells ringing in the old downtowns  
Ancient sadness tumbles down  
The heavy veil of tragedy  
Makes it hard to breathe, hard to see  
You can trace these scars along the ground  
When you're out for a walk in your old downtown

I went for a walk in my old downtown...