

# The Long Way Home

Mary Chapin Carpenter

You could be this man; he's got it all worked out  
To the nth degree, no fears, no doubts  
He'll retire at thirty to his big-ass house  
Next to the putting green

Now he's got a picture in his head of the perfect wife  
Their perfect children, their perfect life  
Nothing wrong with that  
Coming home each night to his cul-de-sac of dreams

Funny now how it all went by so fast  
One day he's looking over his shoulder at the past  
When everybody had to go, had to be, had to get somewhere  
How did he forget about what got him there?

Now you could be this woman; she's the CEO  
She's got her power suits and her IPOs  
She punched a hole in the ceiling years ago  
And she hasn't pulled back since

Now there's a gardener for the flowers  
A cook for the meals, a maid for the laundry  
An accountant for the bills, a walker for the dog  
And a trainer when she feels the need to lose an inch

Funny now how it all went by so fast  
One day she's looking over her shoulder at the past  
When everybody had to go, had to be, had to get somewhere  
Somehow she forgot about what got her there

Accidents and inspiration lead you to your destination  
Or you could be the one who takes the long way home  
Roll down your window, turn off your phone  
See your life as a gift from the great unknown  
And your task is to receive it

Tell your kid a story, hold your lover tight  
Make a joyful noise, swim naked at night  
Read a poem a day, call in well sometimes and  
Laugh when they believe it

Funny now how it all goes by so fast  
One day I'm looking over my shoulder at the past  
Now everybody's got to go, got to be, got to get somewhere  
Baby, don't forget about  
You really shouldn't forget about  
Baby, don't forget what got you there  
I think it's what got you there  
Yeah, it's really what got you there  
You know what got you there