I was three years old sitting in the seat Of a Greyhound bus, my brother and me Mama's tears falling like a Carolina rain

'Cause she pulled out a gun the night before Said he ain't gonna drink and hit me no more She pulled the trigger on my father in a moment's range

Thank God that gun wasn't loaded Didn't know where to go or how she'd survive Didn't care, anywhere but there that night

Now she held her babies tight And we rode through the cold of the midnight blue She was scared, she was broke but all she knew was She was gonna do what she had to

She got her a job in a trailer out west It wasn't much but she was doing her best Putting food on the table for her family

But then one day I came home from school
My mama was crying alone in her room
She said, "I lost my job and we're gonna lose the trailer too"

And she got that Volkswagen loaded Didn't know where to go or how she'd survive Didn't care, anywhere but there that night

Now she held her babies tight And we rode through the cold of the midnight blue She was scared, she was broke but all she knew was She was gonna do what she had to

Whenever things go wrong in my life I just think of her, what it took that night To get on that bus in the Carolina rain

Didn't know where to go or how she'd survive Didn't care, anywhere but there that night

She held her babies tight And we rode through the cold of the midnight blue She was scared, she was broke but all she knew was She was gonna do what she had to

What she had to What she had to What she had to