

## School Night

Ani DiFranco

She went over to his apartment  
Clutching her decision  
And he said, did you come here to tell me goodbye?  
So she built a skyscraper of procrastination  
And then she leaned out the twenty-fifth floor window  
Of her reply  
And she felt like an actress  
Just reading her lines  
When she finally said yes.  
It's really goodbye this time  
And far below was the blacktop  
And the tiny toy cars  
And it all fell so fast  
And it all fell so far

And she said:  
You are a miracle but that is not all  
You are also a stiff drink and I am on call  
You are a party and I am a school night  
And I'm lookin' for my door key  
But you are my porch light

And you'll never know, dear  
Just how much I loved you  
You'll probably think this was  
Just my big excuse  
But I stand committed  
to a love that came before you  
And the fact that I adore you  
Is but one of my truths

What of the mother  
Whose house is in flames  
And both of her children  
Are in their beds crying  
And she loves them both  
With the whole of her heart  
But she knows she can only carry one at a time?  
She's choking on the smoke of unthinkable choices  
She is haunted by the voices of so many desires  
She's bent over from the business of begging forgiveness  
While frantically running around putting out fires

But then what kind of scale  
Compares the weight of two beauties  
The gravity of duties  
Or the ground speed of joy?  
Tell me what kind of gauge  
Can quantify elation?  
What kind of equation could I possibly employ?  
And you'll never know, dear  
Just how much I loved you  
You probably think this was  
Just my big excuse  
But I stand committed  
To a love that came before you  
And the fact that I adore you

Is just one of my truths

So I

I'm goin' home to please the one I so love pleasing

And I don't expect he'll have much sympathy for my grieving

But I guess that this is the price

That we pay for the privilege of living for even a day

In a world with so many things

Worth believing in