

## Jackie Skates

Janis Ian

Jackie skates across the freeway  
Like a suicide in steel  
Scatters ashes of her memory  
To the wind behind the wheel  
It's the road that makes the rhythm  
It's the chalk marks on her soul  
It's the task that he's been given  
To keep her memory whole

She was younger than forever  
She was older than goodbye  
And she never saw the trucker  
As he wove across the line  
Just another L.A. drifter  
With the freeway in her blood  
And she never knew what hit her  
When she ran right out of luck

It was Jackie called the parents  
It was Jackie won the prize  
It was Jackie fed the silence  
When they could not meet his eyes  
It was Jackie took the body  
It was Jackie packed her stuff  
And he never really loved her  
Though he liked her well enough

Sometimes at night he sees her  
From the corner of his eye  
And he's just about to tell her  
That he has no alibi  
It's fate that makes the moment  
That's what he wants to cry  
But the words he needs are frozen  
He can't even say goodbye

Jackie skates across the freeway  
Like a suicide in steel  
Scatters ashes of her memory  
To the wind behind the wheel