

# Chasing What's Already Gone

Mary Chapin Carpenter

There's a big white house on a leafy street  
On a summer's day of 1963  
Station wagons parked in the drive  
Dents in the fender and wood on the side  
There's kids and dogs and instamatic cubes squinting hard in the sun  
Not just yet, but one day too  
They'll be chasing what's already gone

You grow up tall and you grow up tough  
Trying to never admit not feeling good enough  
Until you find your passion and you find your way  
Just trying to make it unscathed through every day  
And it seems to happen nearly overnight  
Life shows you who you've become  
And there's no more mystery in the fading light  
You're just chasing what's already gone

Like the line that spells the far horizon  
Moving with you as fast as you can run  
Half your life you pay it no attention  
The rest you can't stop wondering  
What you should have done  
Instead of chasing what's already gone

Saw my father in a dream last night  
He was smiling and saying "You're gonna be all right"  
And this morning I stared back at myself  
Feeling as empty as I've ever felt  
But I keep on going and I hope I've learned  
More of what's right than what's wrong  
It's ashes and roses and time that burns  
When you're chasing what's already gone  
Ashes and roses and hearts that break  
I tried so hard to be strong  
But maybe my worries were not my first mistake  
I'm chasing what's already gone