

They Thought I Was Asleep

Paul Kelly

We were driving back from the country one night
Mum and dad up the front and the rest of us snug and tight
My kid brother grizzled for a little minute
'Til my big sister told him he'd better quit it or die
It had been a long day in the countryside
Playing with the cousins on my mother's side
The sound of the radio closed our eyes drifting over the seat
And then I fell asleep

I don't know what woke me up
Maybe a country song or a big truck passing by
I could hear my mama and papa talking
Papa said something then mama began to cry
No more words then, just soft sobs and my head began to throb
I just lay there playing dog breathing slow and deep
They thought I was asleep
They thought I was asleep

It seemed forever 'til the sobbing stopped
Then they talked for a little while but just too soft to hear
Daddy kept looking at the side of her face
One hand on the wheel and one hand stroking her hair
The headlights shining from the other way
Showed tears on the cheeks of daddy's face
I prayed for Jesus to send his grace
And all our souls to keep
Back then I believed
They thought I was asleep
The night was dark and deep
How I wish I was asleep