Shasta (Carrie's Song)

Vienna Teng

So far so good You're coming to the bend at the end of the road You put a hand to the belly that's foreign more With every day like an oversize load

And you're thinking about clouds the color of fire And the scent of an orange peel The way Mt. Shasta explodes into windshield view And your hands steady on the wheel

So far so good Coffee motel coffee diner coffee go on Styrofoam is drying like the tears that once did flow Starting 10 o'clock and ending at dawn

And you can't go back but you're going back And you don't know what you'll say You've got half-formed sentences Explanations for a life half-broken away And they just may They'll take you in their arms and then take out their knives So you drive on thinking

So far so good But you can't go on much longer like this you know You're all alone in this world no that's not true The nice Christian lady told you so

She was handing out pamphlets by the clinic door Saying "Jesus knows what you've been through Take the Savior into your heart my child There's love waiting for the both of you"

Well you don't believe but you have to believe It's still crumpled there in your back seat Were you the hero or the worst kind of coward back there Putting pavement back under your feet Couldn't stand the heat Couldn't stand the thought of ghosts with a negative age Turn the page OK

So far so good You try to sing along to the radio But it's not your language not your song It's from some other time ago

And you're thinking about how someone died that day The you that was so carefully planned But then again maybe this life is like a sleeping mountain Waking up to shape the land

Calm calm let it come let it come back to you Calm calm breathe on out you know you know what to do