Strawberry Blonde

Ron Sexsmith

She was not the girl next door
But the girl from around the corner
Was at the tail end of grade four

When she came to school one morningAnd all eyes were upon her as she took her seat Her name was Amanda with pretty eyes of green

Hair of blonde, strawberry blondeSpringtime and dandelions

And summer 'round the corner

Was at the tail end of age nine

With a million dreams before herShe lived with her mother in an old decrepit house If there was trouble at home, she kept it to herself

All summer long, strawberry blondeAnd by her face there was no way to tell Seemed like all was well in her world

But the neighbors saidHer mother had lost her will

Gin and sleeping pills

It was no life for a little girlStill I see her face framed in blue sky

At the top of a slide coming down

And when the sirens wailed

Her mother had failed to riseAll the neighbors stood outside

As Amanda just stared at the groundTime flies, and years are piled

I'd forgotten all about her

When I saw her down the aisle

Of a streetcar with her daughterThen I heard Amanda say as she got up

"C'mon, Samantha, girl, this is our stop."

And they were gone, two strawberry blondes

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