

# He Was In Heaven Before He Died

John Prine

There's a rainbow of babies  
Draped over the graveyard  
Where all the dead sailors  
Wait for their bridesAnd the cold bitter snow  
Has strangled each grass blade  
Where the salt from their tears  
Washed out with the tideAnd I smiled on the Wabash  
The last time I passed it  
Yes, I gave her a wink  
From the passenger sideAnd my foot fell asleep  
As I swallowed my candy  
Knowing he was in Heaven  
Before he diedNow a harbor's on fire  
With the dreams and desires  
Of a thousand young poets  
Who failed 'cause they triedFor a rhyme without reason  
Floats down to the bottom  
Where the scavengers eat 'em  
And wash in with the tideAnd I smiled on the Wabash  
The last time I passed it  
Yes, I gave her a wink  
From the passenger sideAnd my foot fell asleep  
As I swallowed my candy  
Knowing he was in Heaven  
Before he diedThe sun can play tricks  
With your eyes on the highway  
The moon can lay sideways  
Till the ocean stands stillBut a person can't tell  
His best friend he loves him  
Till time has stopped breathing  
You're alone on the hillAnd I smiled on the Wabash  
The last time I passed it  
Yes, I gave her a wink  
From the passenger sideAnd my foot fell asleep  
As I swallowed my candy  
Knowing he was in Heaven  
Before he died

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