

## **A short story long**

*Music & lyrics by Om Sharan Salafia*

A flash hits my coded mask  
got me every time to ask  
is it a star's last dance  
or a two neutron stars' romance?

Everybody knows it's easy  
let your clock tell them apart  
double neutron stars go short & breezy  
for longer sings a collapsar

Seems straightforward, isn't it?  
The long have supernovae, that you can classify  
with a slit  
With the short ones you can even dream  
Of seeing a kilonova after a gravitational scream

But things are not as clean  
some GRBs made the scene  
they lasted for so long  
but it's clear the class to which they belong

There's a clear kilonova  
associated to their afterglow  
or a missing supernova  
down to limits that are very low

But how does this happen  
what causes the remnant  
of a neutron star merger  
to jet for so much longer?

It was straightforward, wasn't it?  
The long had supernovae  
that you could classify with a slit  
Now the short ones aren't short anymore  
GRBs keep being puzzling for us to never feel  
bored