

## NIGHT LIGHTS

Don't interrupt my sorrow, no don't,  
For I am mourning you, your promises and pretty lies  
Even though you have not died but merely passed on  
As I live for our café days on the road to Carmel  
Overnight stays in motels as married and yet not  
Frequenting our power plays in diners and carousel,  
You left me

That summer, there was Beach Boys, the surf and wash  
The neon and nights of Chet's trumpet echoing in the arches  
And laughter and red stripe haze late for the sky  
Leading me on a delightful dance for Jackson Browne  
Our chevy all about done by Monterrey but we made it  
Made it to Carmel to start our life I was your clown,  
You left me

It's been twenty years or more  
But I still want you and that car on the hill  
That wooden house on Ocean Avenue  
The hissing of the lawns and sound of the sea  
I was a fool to think it was love, you sold my love  
For the price of calm and no real good for free,  
You left me

I still have that photograph, you know the one  
Of you and me smiling into our coke and pancakes  
We had no money we had no prospects but we had us  
And turned the optimism of our youth, then  
She appeared and I was discarded like driftwood of the delta  
To return home to Arkansas and the prairie amen,  
You left me

But I returned you didn't know I loved and lost again  
A homestead of two grey rooms with a painting by Kahlo  
Stirring painful and damagingly caustic  
My car wouldn't start two blocks from you  
Repeats of Hill Street and Taxi and Elvis  
And Joni still singing her songs of Blue,  
You left me

Do you remember? No, how silly of me,  
You won't choose to remember  
Being in your house of happiness  
**With all the house lights left up bright**  
The subservient lady passing you beer and chips  
As you watch baseball into the night,  
You left me

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The lyric in **bold** above is taken from *The Last Time I saw Richard* by Joni Mitchell (1971)