

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
Stirringly 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)