
She's Leaving Home

Lennon/McCartney

From: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band



Wednesday morning at five o'clock
as the day begins
Silently closing her bedroom door
Leaving the note that she hoped would say more
She goes downstairs to the kitchen
clutching her handkerchief
Quietly turning the back door key
Stepping outside she is free

She (we gave her most of our lives)
is leaving (sacrificed most of our lives)
home (we gave her everything money could buy)
She's leaving home after living alone for
so many years (bye bye)

Father snores as his wife gets into her dressing gown
Picks up the letter that's lying there
Standing alone at the top of the stairs
She breaks down and cries to her husband
Daddy our baby's gone
Why would she treat us so thoughtlessly
How could she do this to me

She (We never thought of ourselves)
is leaving (never a thought for ourselves)
home (we struggled hard all our lives to get by)
She's leaving home after living alone for
so many years (bye bye)

Friday morning at nine o'clock she is far away
Waiting to keep the appointment she made
Meeting a man from the motor trade

She (what did we do that was wrong)
is having (we didn't know it was wrong)
fun (fun is the one thing that money can't buy)
Something inside that was always denied for
so many years (bye bye)
She's leaving home (bye bye)

Paul McCartney:

“ John and I wrote 'She's Leaving Home' together. It was my inspiration. We'd seen a story in the [newspaper](#) about a young girl who'd left home and not been found, there were a lot of those at the time, and that was enough to give us a story line. So I started to get the lyrics: she slips out and leaves a note and then the parents wake up ... It was rather poignant. I like it as a song, and when I showed it to John, he added the long sustained notes, and one of the nice things about the structure of the song is that it stays on those [chords](#) endlessly. Before that period in our song-writing we would have changed chords but it stays on the C chord. It really holds you. It's a really nice little trick and I think it worked very well.

While I was showing that to John, he was doing the [Greek chorus](#), the parents' view: 'We gave her most of our lives, we gave her everything money could buy.' I think that may have been in the runaway story, it might have been a quote from the parents. Then there's the famous little line about a man from the motor trade; people have since said that was Terry Doran, who was a friend who worked in a car showroom, but it was just fiction, like the sea captain in "[Yellow Submarine](#)", they weren't real people.^[1]

Lyt her: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkJciEf-ENA>

She's Leaving Home

1. What happened on that Wednesday?
2. Try to describe the feelings of the girl and her parents that day.
3. She wrote a letter "She hoped it would say more..." – what had it not said?
4. Why should she leave such a good home? (There could be many different reasons)
5. "We gave her most of our lives" Who is speaking and what is meant?
6. What have they given up for her? What would they have done without her? Would it have been better?
7. Why do young people want to leave home and why do their parents (often) want to keep them at home.
8. In some societies, the different generations spend their lives together in the same house (or at least in the same village)
What are the good sides and the bad sides of this?
Would you like to live like this?