

COULD I LEAVE YOU

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

4 bar intro

as sung by Lee Remick

Leave you? Leave you? How could I leave you?
How could I go it alone?
Could I wave the years away with a quick goodbye?
How do you wipe tears away when your eyes are dry?

Sweetheart, lover, could I recover?
Give up the joys I have known?
Not to fetch your pills again
Every day at five, not to give those dinners for ten
Elderly men from the U.N. How could I survive?

Could I leave you? And your shelves of the world's best books
And the evenings of martyred looks
Cryptic sighs, sullen glares from those injured eyes?
Leave the quips with a sting, jokes with a sneer
Passionless lovemaking once a year?
Leave the lies ill-concealed and the wounds never healed
And the game's not worth winning and wait, I'm just beginning!

What, leave you, leave you? How could I leave you?
What would I do on my own? Putting thoughts of you aside
In the south of France would I think of suicide?
Darling, shall we dance?

Could I live through the pain on a terrace in Spain?
Would it pass? It would pass
Could I bury my rage with a boy half your age
In the grass? Bet your ass
But I've done that already or didn't you know, love?
Tell me, how could I leave when I left long ago, love?

Could I leave you? No, the point is, could you leave me?
Well, I guess you could leave me the house
Leave me the flat, leave me the Braques and Chagalls and all that
You could leave me the stocks for sentiment's sake
And ninety percent of the money you make and the rugs and the cooks
Darling, you keep the drugs. Angel, you keep the books
Honey, I'll take the grand, Sugar, you keep the spinet
And all of our friends and — just wait a goddamned minute

Oh, leave you? Leave you? How could I leave you?
Sweetheart, I have to confess, could I leave you?
Yes. Will I leave you? Will I leave you? Guess!