

# Love Is Just a Four-Letter Word

Joan Baez

Seems like only yesterday  
I left my mind behind  
Down in the gypsy cafe  
With a friend of a friend of mine  
She sat with a baby heavy on her knee  
Yet spoke of life most free from slavery  
With eyes that showed no trace of misery  
A phrase in connection first with she occurred  
That love is just a four letter word  
Outside a rambling store-front  
window  
Cats meowed to the break of day  
Me, I kept my mouth shut  
To you I had no words to say  
My experience was limited and underfed  
You were talking while I hid  
To the one who was the father of your kid  
You probably didn't think I did, but I heard you say  
That love is just a four letter word  
I said goodbye unnoticed  
Pushed forth into my own games  
Drifting in and out of lifetimes  
Unmentionable by name  
Searching for my double, looking for  
Complete evaporation to the core  
Though I tried and failed at finding any door  
I must have thought that there was nothing more absurd than  
That love is just a four letter word  
Though I never  
knew just what you meant  
When you were speaking to your man  
I can only think in terms of me  
And now I understand  
After waking enough times to think I see  
The holy kiss that's supposed to last eternity  
Blow up in smoke, its destiny, falls on strangers, travels free  
Yes, I know now, traps are only set by me  
And I do not really need to be assured  
That love is just a four letter word  
Strange it is to be beside you  
Many years and tables turned  
You'd probably not believe me  
If I told you all I've learned  
And it is very, very weird indeed  
To hear words like forever plead  
Those ships run through my mind, I cannot cheat  
It's like looking in the teacher's face complete  
I can say nothing to you but repeat what I heard  
That love is just a four letter word

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