

# Babysitter

## Harry Chapin

When I rearrange the pieces of the puzzle of my past  
I sigh at the heartaches, relive the laughs  
And I think about the moments that have left their mark  
And the too few faces that shine a little light in the dark  
If you don't mind I'm gonna tell you a story  
And I think that it won't bore you  
For it's a tale that I've never told  
To anyone before you 'cause it's for you  
The sun of sixteen summers had put halos in your hair  
If anything was in my head, twelve winters put it there  
A dollar an hour is what Mama paid you to come and mind her kids  
But no one could really pay you enough for what you really did  
Many happy things keep happening on my journey through this world  
And in ways that I will never understand  
I was much too late to be the first to make you a woman  
But you were the one who made my mother's son a man  
You know I used to read myself to sleep when I went to bed  
I guess I was a dreamer then who lived inside my head  
But the nights you came you talked of things, I found, I had a friend  
You brought my fears of people to a sure and gentle end  
Many happy things keep happening on my journey through this world  
And in ways that I will never understand  
I was much too late to be the first to make you a woman  
But you are the one who made my mother's son a man  
Do you remember the night when you turned out the light  
And you said to me, "Please hold me"  
I did not know which way to go  
So I did just what you told me, "Please hold me"  
When I think about you now, it's not that my memory fails  
There's just no need for graphic telling of all the details  
Let's just say you taught me something that brought me from my shell  
You gave to me that first sweet taste of the heaven here in this hell  
Many happy things keep happening on my journey through this world  
And in ways that I will never understand  
I was much too late to be the first to make you a woman  
But you were the one who made my mother's son a man

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