

Cactus Tree

Joni Mitchell

There's a man who's been out sailing
In a decade full of dreams
And he takes her to a schooner
And he treats her like a queen
Bearing beads from California
With their amber stones and greenHe has called her from the harbor
He has kissed her with his freedom
He has heard her off to starboard
In the breaking and the breathing
Of the water weeds
And she is so busy being freeThere's a man who's climbed a mountain
And he's calling out her name
And he hopes her heart can hear
Three thousand miles he calls again
He can think her there beside him
He can miss her just the sameHe has missed her in the forest
While he showed her all the flowers
And the branches sang the chorus
As he climbed the scaly towers
Of a forest tree
While she was somewhere being freeThere's a man who's sent a letter
And he's waiting for reply
He has asked her of her travels
Since the day they said goodbye
He writes, "Wish you were beside me
We can make it if we try"He has seen her at the office
With her name on all his papers
Through the sharing of the profits
He will find it hard to shake her
From his memory
And she's off somewhere being freeThere's a lady in the city
And she thinks she loves them all
There's the one who's thinking of her
And there's the one who sometimes calls
There's the one who writes her letters
With his facts and figures scrawlShe has brought them to her senses
They have laughed inside her laughter
Now she rallies her defenses
For she fears that one will ask her

For eternity
While she's much too busy being free
There's a man who sends her medals
He is bleeding from the war
And there's a jousting and a jester
And a man who owns a store
There's a drummer and a dreamer
And you know there may be more
She will love them when she sees them
They will lose her if they follow
And she only means to please them
And her heart is full and hollow
Like a cactus tree
While she's so busy being free

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