

# When Rita Leaves

**Delbert McClinton**

She left a lipstick letter on the mirror, shattered on the bathroom floor  
All I could put back together was, "never see me no more."  
Took all her clothes, but one red dress  
The one she knows I like the best  
All I could do was clean up the mess and wonder where she had gone

I had a sky blue ragtop Mustang, 1964  
She drove it off into the night 'til it just wouldn't go no more  
She caught a ride on into town  
Bought some gas and laid the top down  
She burned that pony to the ground on the desert in New Mexico

When Rita leaves, Rita's gone  
She gave me every chance a man could want  
I've never known a love so strong  
Or so crazy when she's been done wrong  
When Rita leaves, Rita's gone

I put a call into her Mamasita back in El Paso  
She said she got the story from Rita on her way to Mexico  
Her Mama knew I was takin' it hard  
Said she was sorry about my car  
She said you're lucky all she broke was your heart  
Better just let her go

When Rita leaves, Rita's gone  
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