

## Soon I'm Going to Leave You

Soon I'm going to leave you  
I'll do it quietly and gradually  
I won't be a creature in the night  
I won't take more than I need  
I will  
In a way  
Take us with me  
I will  
In a way  
Leave you alone  
With what we were

I'll leave you with a now-empty kitchen  
One void of our laughter  
Of us singing  
Of you cooking for us  
And me being unhelpful

Soon I'm going to leave you  
And even though I stopped a while ago  
You'll feel the extra emptiness  
Of me not coming to your bed in the mornings  
Of not hearing my little feet  
Patter across the phases of floor  
Wood, carpet, linoleum  
Down the hall  
From my room to yours  
You'll feel the extra emptiness  
Of me walking in  
And finding you barely awake  
sneaking into the bed  
Engulfing myself within that tattered, orange and brown quilt  
With no words spoken

Then there were the mornings when I'd get there  
And you'd have already gotten up  
I would hide under the covers in a way I believed myself to be so well-concealed

And remain until I heard the shower turn off  
Then I'd sing in rhythm of tradition  
Words of beckoning  
For you to come find me

Soon I'm going to leave you  
And I won't get ready with you for church on Sunday mornings  
I won't give you hugs when you get back from your trips across the world  
And call you mommy  
Past an age most would say I should

Soon  
I won't be reminded everyday  
Of how I wish you'd had all my father wouldn't give you  
What he didn't or maybe couldn't give  
Love and comfort  
Safety and support  
Of how I've always wanted to be that for you  
But have never known how

I won't be reminded everyday  
Of how you're pretty when you smile  
And older than I thought you ever could be  
Of how you're better than anyone I know  
And the only person that might truly know me

Soon  
I'm going to leave you  
And I'll probably think  
Of you laughing while driving  
I'll probably think  
Of the wind in your curly hair  
Of mornings when I'd wake up  
And it would be a different color

I'll think of the one day  
When we took a picture in the garage of my childhood home  
I was wearing my favorite shirt from The Gap  
And you that silk chartreuse blouse  
That draped over your shoulders so maturely

And hung off mine  
Hung across my gangly, pale body  
Like wet linen on a bent wire hanger  
That blouse that now hangs in my closet  
And not yours

On that day I felt so lucky  
That we were each other's

Soon I'm going to leave you  
And I'll think of how  
I was always scared to ask you to cuddle me  
But always glad when I did  
And of how I always felt you were disappointed  
In the gifts I gave you  
Of how I always felt that you didn't like me  
And never really knew why I felt that way

I'll think of how  
You once told me I was your favorite person  
And even though I don't think I believed you  
I've never wanted to hear anything in the world more than that

I'll think of how you're my best friend  
And I could never love someone else  
In the way that I've loved you

I love you

I'm sorry I'm going  
I'm sorry I have to leave you

By Kate Jones  
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