

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'd gone.

I had a sky blue ragtop Mustang 1964,
She drove it off into the night, 'Till 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.

Chorus:

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 Mamacita 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,
You better just let her go

Chorus

Coda:

She never gave me a chance to explain
Hell, I guess doesn't much matter anyway
When Rita leaves, Rita's gone
When Rita leaves, Rita's gone