

When You Leave
Loudon Wainwright III

When You Leave LW111

LW111 plays with capo on the 5th fret. There is a deal of hammering on during the chord
(Not sure about the C after the F in the Break).The D at the end of each couplet is D
then Dsus4

G **Em**
You left for camp, you left for school
Am/C **D**
Left for the coast when that was cool then
G **Em**
You left women, one a wife
Am/C **D**
To save your skin you wrecked a life and
Am **C**
then there s kids its not just one
G **D**
life that you wreck you re on the run
Am **C**
You go to town to start anew
G **D**
those you left come after you

G **Em**
Its what you think its how you feel
C **D**
though who can say if its all real
G **Em**
The darndest thing kids grow up
Am/C **D**
One day some strange adults show up
G **Em**
The ones you left are right in town
Am/C **D**
thatâ€™s nice you say they ll be around
Am **C**
perhaps they just a bit bereft but
G **D**
they ll forgive the one who left
Am **C**
sad stories can have happy ends
G **D**
perhaps now you can just be friends
G **Em**
Its what you want its how you feel

Am/C **D**
whats more you hope your theory s real
(Break)

F **C**
Who would have thought or could believe

G **D**
Things go so badly when you leave

F **C**
the skin you saved is growing slack and

G **D**
those you left don t want you back

(Instrumental)

G **Em**
Your power s gone it was pro tem

Am/C **D**
The wife you left meant more to them

G **Em**
Its not just that they side with her

Am/C **D**
you left and who knew where you were

Am **C**
The reason that they came to town

G **D**
was just to make that place their own

Am **C**
You realised your greatest fear

G **D**
you are so close but hardly here

G **Em**
It s what you think it s how you feel

Am/C **D**
and what s worse is you know its real