

**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