

By The Time I Get To Phoenix

(key C)

By the **[Dm]** time I get to Phoenix
She'll be **[C]** rising.

[Dm] She'll find my note I left hanging
on her **[C]** door.

[F] She'll laugh when she reads
the **[G7]** part that says I'm **[Em7]** leaving.
Cause I **[Dm]** left that girl so **[F]** many
times before **[Bb][G]**

By the **[Dm]** time I make Albuquerque
she'll be **[C]** working.
She'll **[Dm]** probably stop at lunch
and give me a **[C]** call.

[F] But she'll just hear that **[G7]** phone
keep on **[Em7]** ringing,
off the **[Dm]** wall, **[F]** that's all **[G7]**

By the **[Dm]** time I make Oklahoma
She'll be **[C]** sleeping.
She'll **[Dm]** turn softly and call my name out **[C]** low

[F] She'll cry just to **[G7]** think
I'd really **[Em7]** leave her.

Though **[Dm]** time and time
[G7] I've tried to tell her **[C]** so. **[C7]**

[F] She just didn't **[Dm]** know
[G] I would really **[C]** go.

Awwwwwwwww, yeah
Mmmmmmm, hmmmmmm,
hmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm
mmm
. I'm talking about the power of love
now I'm gonna tell you what love can
do You know, when they say love
makes the world go round. That's the
truth. Love can make you or break
you. . It can make you laugh or make
you cry. It can make you happy or
sad. Aw, it can hurt real bad. In a
case of jealousy, love can make you
mad. Oh, yeah. Now everybody,
everybody's got it's own thing.
Everybody's got it's way of doing a
thing. Now we should attempt to do a
tune that is very popular. It was
written by one of the great young
songwriters of today. Now, I don't
know what he was thinking about or
what inspired him to write this tune,
but it's a deep tune. There's a deep
meaning to this tune, because it
shows you what the power of love can
do. Now I should attempt to do it my
way, my own interpretation of it. Like
I said, everybody's got it's own thing.
I'm gonna bring it on down to
Soulsville. Now I want you to bear
along with me for a few minutes
while I set it up. Now I want your
imagination. I want you to travel with
me. Oh, come on, come on, come on.
. This young man was raised in the
hills of Tennessee. When he reached
the age of maturity, he moved to the
West Coast. And he fell in love when
he got out there to this young girl.
Aw, man, she was out of sight. She
was bad. And then they started
dating and then the inevitable:
became engaged and got married.
Mmmmmmm, hmmmmmm,
hmmmm. They were happily married.
That's right they lived in L.A. Aw, aw.
The power of love was upon them.
But you see, girls, I don't mean to
come down on you. But this man
loved this woman so...He can really
say love is blind. He can see no
wrong. No, no, no. He worked every
day and sometimes he'd pull
overtime, double time, triple time. He
bought everything this woman's
heart desires. Everything that he
could wreak and streak. He spent his
last dime on women because he loved
her. And you know, girls, you can
take love and kindness sometime for
weakness, and she took it for
granted. She said, "I got a fool and I
know I got a fool, but I got a good

thing.". Yeah, she was standing on
the corner, you understand, meeting
with her friends. She would go to the
beauty salon, get her hair fixed.
She'd go shopping and she would
brag about her good thing she's got.
Yeah. And she took doubt on it. See,
ain't nobody gonna believe what to
tell him no way, fool. Aw, yeah, girls,
you would love that sometimes. But
one day, one day, the old boy got sick
and he had to come home. I don't
have to tell you what he found. Oh,
yeah, it hurt him so bad. He said,
"Baby...Mama, why?" That's all he
could say. That's all he could say. He
was hurt. But she said, "Aw. Go on
fool, you're doing it, but the man
wasn't doing it, but that's the only
excuse you can give him.". He said,
"Mama, I can't take it. I got to leave
you. I'm gonna leave you.". He
packed his rags, you understand,
and started out the door. And when
he reached the driveway, you
understand, he went there begging
just like Tyrone Davis. And he said,
"Oh, Mama, Mama, Mama, can I
change, oh, my mind.". You see, the
power of love was upon him and then
he came back. Oh, yes he did. When
she tried to straighten up, she said
she was gonna straighten up. She got
a little job to help him out with the
bills too, but that was just a sham,
because he found it again and again,
and seven times he left this woman
and seven times he came back. Aw,
but you know, the heart can take so
much. That's right. You can kick a
dog around for so long and he'll get
tired. He'll turn. And he taken all
that he could stand. In the eighth
time that this went down, he said,
"Mama, I got to go.". With tears in his
eyes, he said, "I'm gonna leave you,
baby.". He said, "I ain't coming
back.". He said, "I'm leaving my heart
right here, but I got to go, you see,
cause this man can't take no more.".
She didn't believe it. He packed his
clothes. He got in his 1965 Ford and
started out. Three times he started to
turn back before he reached the
outskirts of the city, but he kept on
going. Oh, I don't wanna go, but I got
to leave you, Mama. And he's going
down on the highway. I guess it was
around 3:30 in the morning. He
could not hardly see the road with
tears in his eyes. That's right, he was
crying. They were meeting in his
tears. He could not hardly see the

sign that went on the sign of the
road. It read the next town is 125
miles away. And these bitter words
came into his mind. He said.... . By
the time I get to Phoenix, she'll be rising.
Oh, she'll find a note I left hanging on the
door. She'll laugh when she reads the
part that says I'm leaving. Oh, yes she
will. Why?. Cause I left that girl so many
times before. Oh. . By the time I make
Albuquerque, she'll be working. And
she'll probably stop at lunch just to give
her, her sweet good thing a call. And
ohhh, she'll hear, oh, oh, the phone
keeps right on ringing and ringing and
ringing and ringing, oh, and ringing off
the wall. Mama, Mama, that's all. . And
by the time I get to Oklahoma, she'll be
sleeping. She'll turn softly in her restless
sleep, call my name out low. And ohhhh,
then she'll cry just to think I-I-I-I-I
would really leave her. But time after
time after time and time and again. I tried
to tell her so. But she wasn't a believer,
oh, and she did know. Oh, that I-I-I-I-I
would really go. She didn't believe I would
really go. Oh no. I hate to leave you,
baby. Yes I do. I really, really, really hate
to go. Oh yeah, but this heart of mine
just can't take no more. I-I-I-I-I-I've
taken all that I could stand. You
should've known what you were doing to
the man. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
You see, when I left, baby, I left a good
piece of my heart. Oh, yeah. You know,
you know, you know you took,
baby. You know you...You know you took
the greatest part. Oh, yeah. I don't know
how I'm gonna make it, oh no, but I got
to go. I'm gonna miss all the sweet loving
and the good times. But the good times
weren't as heavy, aw, as the bad times.
Oh, yeah. You really, really put the hurt
on me. Yes you did. I'm a prisoner of your
love and I just--I just won't ever be free,
oh no. So it's bye-bye. Oh, Mama, Mama,
bye-bye. Oh, bye-bye. Oh, bye-bye, baby,
bye-bye. It's too late for you to cry. You
had a good thing, oh, and you abused it.
Yes you did. Yes you did. You had a good
heart, oh, and you misused it. Oh, yeah.
You were sweet to me, yes you were. But
on the other hand, you were real cold,
cold, cold, cold. You just kept me, oh.
You kept me hanging on. Yes you did.
Oh, oh, you kept me hanging on. You
kept me begging, begging. You kept me
begging to do right. You kept me pacing
the floor at night. Oh yeah. But I love
you. God knows that I love you, baby.
Ahh, yeah. I'll always love you, yeah. .
(Instrumental break). . Raindrops of
water beating under my chin. You can
look at me and tell all the pain I'm in. Aw,
yeah. Aw, yeah. I'm gonna moan now.
Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm,
mmmmmmmmmmmm, hmmmmmm.
Mmmmmmm, hmmmmmm. .
(Instrumental break to finale).