

## When Rita Leaves

Delbert McClinton

She left a lipstick letter on the mirror shattered on the bathr  
oom 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 lik  
e the best  
All I could do was clean up the mess and wonder where she'd gon  
e

I had a sky-blue, rag top Mustang, a 1964  
She drove it off into the night till it just wouldn't go no mor  
e  
She caught a ride on into town, bought some gas and laid the to  
p down  
Then she burned that pony to the ground on the desert in new Me  
xico

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 mamasita 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"

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