

Don't Leave Me Like This

by Walt Sutton

“Don't leave me like this.”

“I have to go.”

“No, you don't.”

“Yea, I do.”

“No, you don't.”

“Yes damn it, you know that I do.”

“No, damn it yourself, I don't.”

“Stop being so stupid,
you know I have to go,
we've been talking about this forever!”

“I'll be all alone.”

“No you won't.
The others will take care of you,
I promise.”

“Ha! What good is your promise?”

“Don't make this harder then it needs to be,
you know I'll miss you.
You know this is hard.
Why don't you just give me a break
and make this a last pleasant moment.”

“Its not pleasant for me.
I mean you're the one who's leaving.
You're the one who is selling me.
I'm not selling you.
How long will thirty pieces of silver last you anyway?”



“Hopefully until I die,
and its not thirty pieces of silver,
it's a fair return on a tough investment.
Besides this is your chance to go on and be something really big.
I don't even understand what you're bitching about?

“I don't want to be big,
I want to be yours.”

“But that's what I've been telling you for three years now.
I can't keep running you.
I've got to move on in my life,
You're the only thing I've done for twenty-three years now,
enough is enough!
Don't you see...
there's no children or watercolor or poetry in business,
there's no Venice,
vegetable growing,
jam making,
drum playing,
river rafting
hiking
bird watching,
dream making
or time
in business... its just business and I'm sick of it.”

“Well excuse me!
Keep me around until you hit a mid-life crisis then sell.
That's gratefulness for you!
Look at you, look at that suit.
I bought it for you in London remember?
Think of your house, your cars,
God, the cars I have leased for you,
And the summer cabin
and those two white fluffy pieces of purebred shit your wife bought, yap, yap, yap!
I made you and you just pass me off!
No you piss me off!
I lived with you through the darkest hardest hours of your life,
and we scratched and built and created something beautiful,
something powerful,
something wonderful.
Me! Your Business, your identity.
Me, your everything.
How can you do this to me?



“Hold it!
I started you, you didn't start me.
I made you up, you didn't make me up.
And now I'm giving you the chance to move on,
to get bigger,
maybe even to go public,
And all I get is this
insufferable line of bullshit.
What is it with you?
Its not like we haven't been over this ground a thousand times.
You know I don't want to do this anymore.
I found you a good owner,
and left you with ninety wonderful people.
This is a big beginning for you, but I can't go on.
I have to go see more of life than
ledgers,
clients,
boardrooms,
airplanes,
banks,
attorneys,
computers
and human resource specialists.
It just isn't enough.
It just isn't a life.
It's a business
A good business, but still just a business.”

“I can make you richer.
Is it the money?
You can have more money, I'm sure of it.
I know you can make me bigger,
Yea bigger
And then I can give you more money,
And then you'll want to stay!”

“No.
The papers are all signed.
This is our last day.
Tomorrow you're his and I'm out of here.
It's not the money
I just need a life
and I'm sorry it hurts you.
It hurts me too,
I'll miss you.”



“Then why don't you tear the papers up
and I'll get bigger
and you can have more money,
or maybe hire someone to help run me.
That's it,
someone to give you more time,
You can stay,
don't you see,
this is it,
our big chance to stay together.
Besides I don't want him to own me,
He doesn't understand me like you do.
The change may kill me.
If I die
So will a part of you.
You don't want to see me die do you?”

“You're not going to die, You've been through too much.
You're tough.
You're going to make it.
In fact I think you'll be bigger, stronger and happier.
He can give you the energy and freshness I've lost.
You'll like that.
Now I've got to go.
Let's hug.”

“But what will you do without me?”

“Live a life, maybe even write a little.”

“Will you miss me?”

“Yes, very much.”

“Don't leave me like this.”

