

"COULD I LEAVE YOU"

Music and Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

Book: James Goldman

Sunday in the Park with Lorge... and Cadrain
Rabbi Ari S. Lorge and Cantor Julia R. Cadrain
Episode 10
Dedicated to Queen Vashti

1 FADE IN:

2 *CONFUSED AND DEFEATED, BEN ASKS PHYLLIS TO*
3 *DIVORCE HIM.*

4 PHYLLIS

5 Leave you? Leave you?
6 How could I leave you?
7 How could I go it alone?
8 Could I wave the years away
9 With a quick goodbye?
10 How do you wipe tears away
11 When you eyes are dry?
12 Sweetheart, lover,
13 Could I recover,
14 Give up the joys I have known?
15 Not to fetch your pills again
16 Every day at five,
17 Not to give those dinner for ten
18 Elderly men
19 From the U.N.—
20 How could I survive?
21
22 Could I leave you
23 And your shelves of the World's Best Books,
24 And the evenings of martyred looks,
25 Cryptic sighs,
26 Sullen glares from those injured eyes?
27 Leave the quips with a sting, jokes with a sneer,
28 Passionless love-making once a year?
29 Leave the lies ill-concealed
30 And the wounds never healed
31 And the games not worth winning
32 And—wait, I'm just beginning!
33 What, leave you, leave you,
34 How could I leave you?
35 What would I do on my own?
36 Putting thoughts of you aside
37 In the South of France,
38 Would I think of suicide?
39 Darling, shall we dance?
40 Could I live through the pain
41 On a terrace in Spain?
42 Would it pass?
43 It would pass.

1 Could I bury my rage
2 With a boy half your age
3 In the grass?
4 Bet your ass.
5 But I've done that already—
6 Or didn't you know, love?
7 Tell me, how could I leave
8 When I left long ago, love?

9 Could I leave you?
10 No, the point is, could you leave me?
11 Well, I guess you could leave me the house,
12 Leave me the flat,
13 Leave me the Braques and Chagalls and all that.

14 You could leave me the stocks for sentiments sake
15 And ninety percent of the money you make,
16 And the rugs
17 And the cooks—
18 Darling, you keep the drugs,
19 Angel, you keep the books.
20 Honey, I'll take the grand,
21 Sugar, you keep the spinet
22 And all of our friends and—
23 Just wait a goddamned minute!

24 Oh,
25 Leave you? Leave you?
26 How could I leave you?
27 Sweetheart, I have to confess:
28 Could I leave you?
29 Yes.
30 Will I leave you?
31 Will I leave you?
32 Guess!