

## Chapter Two - 2012

### *“Darling Be Home Soon”*

*Artist: The Barra MacNeils (The Lovin’ Spoonful)*

*Writer: John Sebastian*

*“Come, and talk of all the things we did today,  
Hear, and laugh about our funny little ways  
While we have a few minutes to breathe,  
Then I know it’s time you must leave.”*

Like so many songs on my list, this one grew in meaning over time. Though it wasn’t lost on me that the song tells the story of a couple in a long-distance relationship like Chance and I were, it didn’t start out as a Channifer song. The version I’d found featured the knockout voice of Lucy MacNeil, backed by a full orchestra, and that was enough for it to become an instant favorite.

Then I played it for my mom one night in May 2012, while Chance was in Vietnam. I missed him terribly, so the title, of course, seemed timely. But Mama keyed on a different part of the lyrics:

*“And I see that the time spent confused is the time that I spent without you.”*

Anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of my mother’ investigative skills knows what’s coming....

“So, do you think all the confusing years you’ve endured were because you and Chance weren’t together?”

I, of course, said no at the time, seeing as we’d spent only five months together in 1993 and only a month and a half this time. Still, I couldn’t deny that what was happening felt right. Maybe even in a putting-the-universe-right fashion. My Dad saw it, too, telling me sometime later that he’d never known me to be so content. And it was true. I didn’t need Chance in my life, but I wanted him there. He fit into the new normal I’d built for myself, without imposing on or trying to chip away at my newfound independence. That was no small thing then, and it’s no small thing now.

By the time I got to perform this song live as a surprise for Chance in 2014, I meant every single word of it with all my heart. I still do, and I always will.

*“But darling be home soon.  
I couldn’t bear to wait an extra minute if you dawdle.  
My darling, be home soon.  
It’s not just these few hours; I’ve been waiting since I toddled  
For the great relief of having you to talk to.”*

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