

Chapter Two - 2012
"The Waiting"

Artist: Linda Ronstadt

Writer: Tom Petty

*"The waiting is the hardest part,
Every day you see one more card.
You take it on faith; you take it to the heart.
The waiting is the hardest part."*

For a couple engaged in a weekends-only, long distance relationship, the interpretation of this one, and its place on the list should be fairly obvious. We'd settled into an every-two-weeks pattern that sometimes got reaaaallllly long in the interim, and this chorus became my mantra as the days crept by between weekends.

But it's more than this.

By the time this song took its place on my playlist, I'd fallen hopelessly in love with a self-declared lifelong bachelor who told me going into this chapter that he had no intention of making this or any relationship permanent. Sounds harsh when spelled out this way, but I appreciated his honesty, and I believed I was up to the emotional challenge, because I didn't think I wanted anything permanent, either.

Wrong.

As much as I wanted to accept and duplicate his terms, I went right ahead and invested it all. Thus, I found myself, against my better judgment, waiting.

Waiting for him to change his mind.

Waiting for him to return the love he'd never asked for.

Waiting for him to realize his grow-old-and-die-alone plan sucked.

Sometimes I felt it shifting. But he did, too, and reaffirmed his decision.

They say good things come to those who wait, and it's absolutely true.

But first I had to give up...

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