

You Can Leave
Your Hat On



Steven Tabor
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Baby, take off your coat
Real slow
And take off your shoes
I'll take off your shoes
Baby, take off your dress
Yes, yes, yes

You can leave your hat on
You can leave your hat on
You can leave your hat on

Go over there
Turn on the lights
All the lights
Come over here
Stand on that chair
Yeah, that's right
Raise your arms up in the air
And now shake 'em

Now give me a reason to live
You give me a reason to live
You give me a reason to live
You give me a reason to live

Sweet darling
(You can leave your hat on)
You can leave your hat on, baby
(You can leave your hat on)
You can leave your hat on
(You can leave your hat on)

Suspicious minds are talkin'
They're tryna tear us apart
They don't believe in this love of mine
They don't know what love is
Yeah, I know what love is

Put it my way
(You can leave your hat on)
You can leave your hat on now
Free world
(You can leave your hat on)
Heaven is the reason to live
(You can leave your hat on)
You can leave your hat on
Darlin' just don't

You Can Leave Your Hat On

Randy Newman's song "You Can Leave Your Hat On", is, like many of his songs, irresistibly charming. It is imbued with a dry sense of humor, although many have apparently missed the joke, and interpreted it as some sort of raw, sexual ballad.

"You Can Leave Your Hat On", is simply about a man asking a woman to undress, slowly, but with the exception of her hat. When he wrote the song, Randy Newman declared that it was a joke, and, at first, he didn't even bother releasing it on any of his albums. But then the song caught on and became an international hit for a number of other artists. So in 1972, four years after the song was written, Newman released his own version of it on the album "Sail Away".

While Randy Newman's version is quite fine, my favorite version of this song was the one performed by Joe Cocker. He produced an irresistible version that was tailor-made for the dance floor, with his aching vocals complemented by blasting horns and raucous female backing singers. Listening to Joe Cocker transform the song into a burlesque classic taught me that music had alchemist-like powers to transform something quite silly into a work that was both powerful and captivating. Naturally, for this series, I've asked a model, Nadia, to act out the music, but not to take either the song or the task too seriously.









































































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