

## Harry Chapin

# "The Day They Closed The Factory Down"

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She said, "I watch him walk down Main Street  
A sweet one man parade  
He'd tip his hat and just like that  
Another score he'd made"

"I'd watch the girls all watch him  
Moths drawn to the flame  
The money showed, the laughter flowed  
From the way he played the game  
He played the game"

"Some said he was a rambler  
Some said he was a rake  
Some said he was a gambler  
Some said he was a fake"

"But I knew him like no one else  
A gentleman was he  
His days belonged to himself  
His nights belonged to me  
Belonged to me"

"And they're talkin' in the town square  
In the taverns and the shops  
I hear them talkin' everywhere  
Their talkin' never stops"

"But all their words of wisdom  
Won't make you go away  
The day they closed the factory down  
They had nothing, nothing left to say"

She said, "I take care of my momma now  
Since my father died  
I'm raising baby brother too  
The way my father tried"

"His thirty years in the factory ended  
In that furnace blast  
But they settled up for ten bucks a week  
And the bitterness is past  
It did not last"

So they're moving somewhere else now  
With their cloths and fabric press  
They found themselves another town  
Where they'll make shirts for less

And that is why he said last night  
He won't watch the old town die  
But I would not take what he tried to leave  
When he told me 'Good bye'  
Ah, it's good bye

And they're talkin' in the town square  
In the taverns and the shops  
I hear them talkin' everywhere  
Their talkin' never stops

But all their words of wisdom  
Won't make you go away  
The day they closed the factory down  
They had nothing, nothing left to say

So they're talkin' of the changes  
The closing brings about  
Talkin' of the hard times  
And the young folks moving out

Yes, they're talking as if talking can make  
Everything all right  
But all the talking ever done  
Won't bring him back tonight  
Ah, tonight

And they're talkin' talkin' talkin' talkin'  
Talkin' in the shops  
I hear them talkin' everywhere  
Their talkin' never stops

But all their words of wisdom  
Won't make you go away  
The day they closed the factory down  
They had nothing, nothing left to say

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