

# It's a Moving Hit

BY PAT GALLAGHER

**F**ive years ago—pre-Sugarland—Jennifer Nettles was sitting on her living room couch in Decatur, Ga., when Reba McEntire's "Whoever's in New England" grabbed her attention on the radio. "I was listening to it thinking, 'That's such a great song,' but in the end there are three people here in this equation," Jennifer explains. "And, many times, a song is from the perspective of the person who's been hurt, or the person who's been cheated on.

"I thought, wouldn't it be interesting to tell this story from the perspective of the *other* woman, because nobody tells that story. She's not happy in this situation, I would imagine."

That's when Jennifer did something she had never done before . . . she began writing a song. "I picked up my guitar and just started playing around," Jennifer recalls. "And the first line came—I *been sittin' here starin' at the clock on the wall / And I been layin' here prayin', prayin' she won't call*—and the story just unfolded. By the end of the song, the woman has her own sense of redemption and realizes she deserves more than being with someone who will never be fully hers."

Sugarland, the duo of Jennifer and partner Kristian Bush, recorded "Stay" on their sophomore album, *Enjoy the Ride*, in 2006. In the video for the single—which hit the No. 2 spot on the *Billboard* chart—Jennifer performs a tearful rendition, which raises a question: Has she ever been the *other* woman in a relationship?

"You know what, I haven't," Jennifer is quick to point out. "However, considering what the statistics are, if you're sitting between two people and you look to your right and you look to your left, one or both of them has experienced this on some level.

"For me, the emotional connection I make with this song in its performance is that of understanding loss," adds Jennifer, who went through a divorce last year. "That is essentially what this song is about."

Jennifer, who generally writes songs with other songwriters, enjoys the feeling of solo accomplishment. "I love writing with Kristian," Jennifer admits, "and he is my favorite person to write with. At the same time, it's nice when one has inspiration and is able to put that down and people can relate to it. It feels encouraging and empowering."



Jennifer Nettles



Jennifer and Kristian made a smash out of "Stay".

## "Stay"

WRITTEN BY Jennifer Nettles

PERFORMED BY Sugarland

I been sitting here staring  
At the clock on the wall  
And I been laying here praying  
Praying she won't call  
It's just another call from home  
You'll get it and be gone  
And I'll be crying

And I'll be begging you, baby  
Beg you not to leave  
But I'll be left here waiting  
With my heart on my sleeve  
Oh, for the next time we'll  
be here  
Seems like a million years  
And I think I'm dying  
What do I have to do to make  
you see  
She can't love you like me

CHORUS  
Why don't you stay  
I'm down on my knees  
I'm so tired of being lonely  
Don't I give you what you need  
When she calls you to go  
There is one thing you should  
know  
We don't have to live this way  
Baby, why don't you stay

You keep telling me, baby  
There will come a time  
When you will leave her arms  
And forever be in mine  
But I don't think that's the truth  
And I don't like being used  
And I'm tired of waiting  
It's too much pain to have to bear  
To love a man you have to share

REPEAT CHORUS  
I can't take it any longer  
But my will is getting stronger  
And I think I know just what I  
have to do  
I can't waste another minute  
After all that I've put in it  
I've given you my best  
Why does she get the best of you  
So the next time you find  
You wanna leave her bed for mine

Why don't you stay  
I'm up off my knees  
I'm so tired of being lonely  
You can't give me what I need  
When she begs you not to go  
There is one thing you should  
know  
I don't have to live this way  
Baby, why don't you stay

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