

21/10/02.

Dear Joni Mitchell.

After reading the lyrics to your song "Big Yellow Taxi" I was ~~a~~ ~~er~~ immediately drawn to the part where you speak of your paradise being ruined and turned into a parking lot. The way you also spoke of "not knowing what you're got till it's gone" also rang a familiar bell within me.

I recently moved to a new ~~suburb~~ area, where there is plenty of healthy bush land, no disturbance by the constant traffic or construction sites and a back yard that goes for



miles onto the thick bush ~~where~~
where the native animals live
happily. This ~~was~~ was, as you
said. "paradise".

However less than a week ago
my paradise was also destroyed.
Without any warning, truck after
truck, bulldozer, cement mixer and
cranes ~~all~~ slowly all made their
way behind my house and destroyed
everything, leaving behind brightly
coloured wooden pegs marking
out where the future road will be
laid.

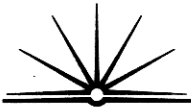
As devastated as I was, I also
felt a strong sense of loss. I had
become extremely attached to this
beautiful nature behind me and
~~and~~ it isn't until now that
I realise how much I loved ~~it~~



my backyard. Just like you said "you don't realise what you've got till it's gone."

I found myself going through a lot of emotions and could feel a change within me. It changed the way I felt about nature, and I used to just acknowledge the fact it was there, I now cherish every given moment I have to be surrounded by lush greenery and the calls of the free animals.

It has also changed my perceptions on the future. If I can't now, even find a home without it becoming surrounded by construction workers within a few days, then what does that say for the future? That with all these constant changes, by turning our limited environment



into small block of land, where ugly brick houses are to be built is a good thing and will ~~be~~ benefit society, just so you can live closer to work?, I don't ~~agree~~ ~~out~~ ~~at~~. Thank so.

As you can probably see Mrs Mitchell I feel very strongly about our environment and your song really reached out ~~to~~ to me. It was like I felt a direct connection with you and the poem as I ~~had~~ too, have experienced the things you write about.

I couldn't agree more with what you say through your song lyrics, touching and so very truthful.

Thank You for being such an



Inspiration to me and expressing
your thought and feeling so
effectly.

Yours truly

[Blurred signature]