

# O Tell Me the Truth About Love

Tell Me the Truth About Love, n. 1

W. H. Auden (1907-1973)

A. Strappa, © 2001

$\text{♩} = 112$

*mf*

10

Some say that love's a lit-tle boy,                      And some say it's a bird,

*p*

14

Some say it makes the world go round,                      And some say

17

that's ab - surd,                      And when I asked the man next - door,

20

Who looked as if he knew, His wife got ve-ry cross in - deed,

24

And said it would-n't do. Does it look like a pair of py - ja-mas,

*più legato*

28

Or the ham in a tem - pe-rance ho - tel? Does its

31

o-dour re - mind one of lla-mas, Or has it a com-for - ting smell?

34

Is it pric - kly to touch as a hedge is, Or soft as ei -

37

der-down fluff? Is it sharp or quite smooth at the ed-ges?

*p cresc.*

41

O tell me the truth a - bo - ut love.

*mf*

45

Our hi-sto-ry books re - fer to it In

*p*

49

cry - ptic lit-tle notes, It's Quite a com-mon to - pic on

52

The Tran - sa - tlan-tic boats; I've

55

found the sub-ject men-tioned in Ac - counts of sui - ci - des,

58

And e - ven seen it scrib-bled on The backs of

61

rail-way-guides. Does it howl like a hun-gry Al - sa - tian,

64

Or boom like a mi - li - ta - ry band? Could one

67

give a first-rate imi - ta - tion On a saw or a Stein-way Grand?

70

Is its sin-ging at par-ties a riot? Does it on - ly like

73

Clas-si-cal stuff? Will it stop when one wants to be quiet?

77

O tell me the truth a - bo - ut love.

81

86

I looked in-side the sum-mer - house,

90

It was-n't e-ver there: I tried the

93

Thames at Mai-den-head, AndBright-ton's bra-cing air.

96

I don't know what the black-bird sang, Or

99

what the tu-lip said; But it wasn'tin the chic-ken - run,

102

3

Or un-der - neath the bed.

Can it

105

pull ex - traor-dina - ry fa - ces?

Is it u - sual - ly

sick on a swing?

108

Does it spend all its time at the ra - ces,

Or fid-dling with

111

pie - ces of string?

Has it views of its own a-bout

114

mo-ney? Does it think Pa - trio - ti - sm e-nough? Are its sto - ries

118

vul - gar but fun - ny? O tell me the truth a - bo - ut

*cresc.*

121

love. When it comes, will it come with-out war-ning Just as I'm pick-ing my nose?

*p*

*8va*

124

Will it knock on my door in the mor-ning Or tread in the

*8va*

*8va*

127

bus on my toes? Will it come like a change in the

*8va*



130

wea-ther? Will its gree-ting be cour-teous or rough? Will it al-ter my

134

life al-to-ge ther? O tell me the truth a - bo - ut love.

138

143

148

152