

HONEY AND RUE

Toni Morrison

1. FIRST I'LL TRY LOVE

First

I'll try love.

Although I've never heard the word

Referred to even whispered to

Me,

First I'll try love.

So when winter comes

And sundown becomes

My time of day,

If anybody asks, I can say,

"First, I tried love."

2. WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?

Whose house is this?

Whose night keeps out the light

In here?

Say, who owns this house?

It's not mine.

I had another sweeter, brighter,

With a view of lakes crossed in painted boats;

Of fields wide as arms open for me.

This house is strange.

Its shadows lie.

Say, tell me, why does its lock fit my key?

3. THE TOWN IS LIT

It's been suggested: well-kept lawns and fences white porch swings and toast by the fire.

It's been requested: puppies, a window of blossoming pear trees and a place for the robins to nest

But I know that somewhere, out there

The town is lit

The players begin

To make music in all the cafés

Clowns on wheels
Linger to steal
Foxes that click on the curb
Lovers expecting
The night to protect them
The moon too far to disturb
Trees in the park
Dance after dark
To music in all the cafés.

It's been suggested: well-kept lawns and fences white porch swings and toast by the fire.
It's been requested: puppies, a window of blossoming pear trees and a place for the robins
to nest

But I know that somewhere, out there
Geminis split
Sagittarians kick
To the music in all the cafés
Aquarians throw
Gold on the floor
To rival the glitter it makes
Pisces swim
Over the rim
Knowing they've got what it takes
To cut through the dark
And get to the heart
Of the music in all the cafés.

4. DO YOU KNOW HIM?

Do you know him?
Easy (My God)
He's easy to take, to mistake
So easy.
Do you know him/
He lasts (My Lord)
How long so long so long
He lasts.
Do you know him?
I know him.

5. I AM NOT SEAWORTHY

I am not seaworthy.

Look how the fish mistake my hair for home.

I had a life, like you. I shouldn't be riding the sea.

I am not seaworthy.

Let me be earth bound; star fixed

Mixed with sun and smacking air.

Give me the smile, the magic kiss

To trick little boy death of my hand.

I am not seaworthy.

Look how the fish mistake my hair for home.

6. TAKE MY MOTHER HOME

My lady rides a Tennessee stud with a tiny whip in her hand. The afternoon sky is kind to her and the wind is in love with her veil. Her coat is as red as her heart. The spurs on her heels glint like knives, where the flesh of the stud is soft.

Take my mother home; take my mother home

I ain't free; never mind about me

Take my mother home.

Take my father home; let my father see his home

I ain't free; don't worry about me

Take my father home

Take my sister home; lead my sister home

I ain't free; forget about me

Lead my sister home

Take my brother home; show him the way to get home

I ain't free; it don't matter about me

Take my brother home.

I wish I had me a fast-footed horse; a veil to wrap my mind. I wish I had me a tiny little whip and a heart that could close like a coat.

Take my baby home; take my baby home

I ain't free and I never will be

Take my pretty baby on home.

Home. Home.

I can stay her all alone if you

Take my mother home.