

Based on the poem **Earwigs**, ©1986 by **Raymond Carver**.  
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# Earwigs

David Gunn

duration: six minutes

**Soprano**

**Alto 1**

Your de - li - cious look - ing rum cake co - vered with al - monds was

**Alto 2**

rum cake al - monds

**Tenor**

rum cake al - monds was

**Bass**

rum al - monds

**S**

The dri - ver parked at the foot of the

**A 1**

hand car - ried to my door this morn - ing, oh

**A 2**

hand door morn - ing, oh

**T**

hand to my door this morn - ing, oh oh oh oh

**B**

rum my door hand car - ried to my door, rum

**Tempo:** ♩ = 88

2  
8

earwigs

S      hill      and climbed      and climbed      and climbed the \_\_\_\_\_

A 1     and climbed      and climbed      climbed      the      steep path      No-thing else moved in that

A 2     -      -      -      -      -      No-thing else moved in that

T      and climbed      and climbed      climbed      the      steep path      no - thing      no - thing

B      hill      and climbed      and climbed and      climbed \_\_\_\_\_      rum      rum

12

S      -      -      -      -      I signed for it,

A 1     fro...      It was cold in-side and out

A 2     fro      -      zen land-scape      I signed for it,

T      fro      -      It was cold in-side and out      I signed for it,

B      No-thing else moved in that      fro      -      It was cold in-side and out, so      I signed for it,

## earwigs

19

S - and in-side found the ca-ni-ster \_\_\_\_ you'd filled with cake  
*cresc.* *f*

A 1 in-side found the ca-ni-ster \_\_\_\_ you'd filled with cake I  
*cresc.* *f* *mf*

A 2 tore the sta-ples from the bag, and in-side found the ca-ni-ster \_\_\_\_ cake I  
*cresc.* *f* *mf*

T 8 tore the sta-ples from the bag, and in-side found the ca-ni-ster \_\_\_\_ you'd cake  
*cresc.* *f*

B - filled with cake I  
*f* *mf*

earwigs

**S**

4  
23

Soprano vocal line with musical notation and lyrics.

**A 1**

Alto 1 vocal line with musical notation and lyrics.

**A 2**

Alto 2 vocal line with musical notation and lyrics.

**T**

Tenor vocal line with musical notation and lyrics.

**B**

Bass vocal line with musical notation and lyrics.

The vocal parts are labeled S, A1, A2, T, B from top to bottom. The music consists of five staves of musical notation with corresponding lyrics underneath. The lyrics describe actions like catching earwigs with adhesive and foil. Dynamics like *p*, *mf*, and *rum* are indicated. Measure numbers 4 and 23 are at the top left. The title "earwigs" is centered above the staff.

## earwigs

5

30

S: from the moist depths an ear - wig stuffed on your cake \_\_\_\_\_ drunk from it

A 1:

A 2: rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum

T: 8 rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum

B: rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum rum

33

S: do do do do do do

A 1: - He went o - ver the side of the can scur-ried wild -

A 2: 11 do do da do do da do da do do da do da do da do da

T: 8 He went o - ver the side of the can scur-ried wild -

B: 11 do do do da do do do da do do do da do do do da

earwigs

6  
35

S      do      do      do      do      do      do      do      do

A 1     - ly, wild - ly, a - cross the ta - ble      to take      re - fuge in the

A 2     do do da      do do da      do da      do do da      do do da      do da      do do da      do da

T      8 - ly, wild - ly, a - cross the ta - ble      to take      re - fuge in the

B      do do do da      do do do da      do do da      do do do da      do do da      do do do da      do do da

38

S

A 1

A 2

T

B

## earwigs

7

42

S feel - ings feel - ings dis - gust of course but a - maze - ment oh, ad - mi - *mf*

A 1 feel - ings feel - ings dis - gust of course but a - maze - ment oh, ad - mi - *mf*

A 2 feel - ings feel - ings dis - gust of course but a - maze - ment

T *g* e - ven *mf*

B con-flict-ing feel - ings dis - gust, of course but a - maze - ment ad-mi -

46

S ra - tion, oh Your de - li - - cious look - ing

A 1 ra - tion, oh dee lish

A 2 thou - sand mile o - ver - night *mf*

T *g* ra - tion This crea - ture that'd just made a three thou - sand mile

B ra - tion crea - ture that'd just made a three o - ver - night

earwigs

8  
49

S      rum cake      o-ver-night trip      sur-round-ed by cake, oh      shaved

A 1     rum cake      by round cake      al-monds

A 2     trip, three thou-sand      thou-sand rum      shaved al-monds,

T     rum cake      round-ed by cake      shaved al-monds

B     trip three thou - sand      rum      by cake shaved al-monds,

53

S      o-ver-powr-ing o-dor of rum car-ried then in a truck

A 1     and—the oh      rum car-ried then in a truck

A 2     oh      oh      rum

T     and—the o - ver rum car-ried then in a truck

B     oh      oh      rum      rum car-ry rum      car-ry

## earwigs

9

57

S o - ver a moun - tain road la la la la la la  
A 1 oh and packed up - hill in freez - ing wea - ther la la la la la la  
A 2 o - ver a moun - tain road  
T 8 o - ver a moun - tain road packed up - hill la la la la la  
B o - ver a moun - tain road packed up - hill la la la la la

60

S to a house o-ver-look-ing Pa-ci-fic O-cean do do do do do do An ear-wig I'll let him  
A 1 o - ver-look - ing Pa-ci-fic O-cean do do do do ear - wig  
A 2 o - ver-look - ing do do do do ear - wig  
T 8 to a house o-ver-look-ing the O - cean An ear-wig I'll let him  
B the O - cean do do do do do An ear-wig I'll let him

## earwigs

earwigs

**Soprano (S)**

10      *live I thought I thought*      *this one's spe - cial*

**Alto 1 (A 1)**

*live I thought I thought What's one more or less in the world*

**Alto 2 (A 2)**

*live one less this one's spe - cial*

**Tenor (T)**

*live I thought I thought one more or less in the world*

**Bass (B)**

*live I thought I thought What's the world*

**Soprano (S)**

69      *may - be bless - ings on its strange, strange head I lift - ed the cake*

**Alto 1 (A 1)**

*may - be oh, strange, strange head I lift - ed the cake*

**Alto 2 (A 2)**

*may - be bless - ings oh, strange, strange do do do do ba*

**Tenor (T)**

*may - strange head do do ba*

**Bass (B)**

*may - be strange head I do do do*

## earwigs

11

77

S side of the can of the can rum *mp* *dim.*

A 1 side of the side of the can of the can for a min-ute I was so *mp*

A 2 do do do do do ba can of the can rum *mf* *dim.*

T 8 do do do ba do do do do ba of the can can for a min - ute so *mf* *mp*

B do do do do ba do ba of the can can for a min - ute so *mp*



## earwigs

13

88

Soprano (S) lyrics: be - fore a - ny could get a - way la la la la la la

Alto 1 (A 1) lyrics: be - fore a - ny could get a - way la la la la la la

Alto 2 (A 2) lyrics: be - fore a - ny could get a - way la la la la la la

Tenor (T) lyrics: be - fore a - ny could get a - way la la la la la la

Bass (B) lyrics: do do

90

Soprano (S) lyrics: la la

Alto 1 (A 1) lyrics: la la

Alto 2 (A 2) lyrics: la la

Tenor (T) lyrics: la la

Bass (B) lyrics: do do

14  
92

earwigs

S It was a mas-sa - cre rum *mf dim.*

A 1 It was a mas-sa - cre While I was at it I found and de-stroyed the *mf*

A 2 It was a mas-sa - cre rum *mf dim.*

T 8 It was a mas-sa - cre rum *mf dim.*

B was a was a was a mas-sa - cre oh rum *mf dim.*

95

S o - ther ut - ter - ly o - ther one *mf*

A 1 o - ther one ut - ter - ly o - other o - other one ut - ter - ly o - other ut - ter - ly o - other

A 2 o - other o - other one ut - ter - ly o - other ut - ter - ly o - other one *mf*

T 8 rum rum rum I *mf*

B rum rum rum I was *mf*

98

S - was all

A 1 just be - gin - ning when it was all o - ver I'm say - ing

A 2 just it was o - ver I'm say - ing

T just it was o - ver I could have gone on and on and

B just be - gin - ning when it was o - ver

101

S - and on rend-ing them

A 1 on rend-ing them If it's true that man is wolf to man what,

A 2 on rend-ing them rum rum true man wolf man

T on and on and on rend-ing them rum rum true man wolf man

B on and on them rum rum true man wolf man

earwigs

16  
105

S

A 1

A 2

T

B

109

S

A 1

A 2

T

B

what can mere ear-wigs ex-pect when blood-lust is up is up is up is up rum

what can ear - wigs when blood - lust is *mf* up is up is when blood-lust is

what can ear - wigs when blood - lust is up is up is rum

what can ear - wigs when blood - lust is up is up is rum

I sat down try-ing to qui-ten my heart, my heart I looked a - round

I sat down down, oh the breath rush-ing from my nose I looked a-round

up I looked round

I sat down try-ing to qui-ten my the breath rush-ing from my nose looked a the

up down heart, my heart from my nose looked a - round

## earwigs

17

113

Soprano (S): ready for a - ny - thing

Alto 1 (A 1): slowly a - ny - thing do do do do do do

Alto 2 (A 2): round a - ny - thing do

Tenor (T): ta - ble slowly oh a - ny-thing do

Bass (B): — a - ny do do do do do do

116

Soprano (S): Mo - na, sor - ry to say this I but I could - n't eat

Alto 1 (A 1): Mo - na, sor - ry to say but I but I could - n't eat a - ny of your

Alto 2 (A 2): Mo - na, sor - ry to say this but I could - n't eat eat of your

Tenor (T): Mo - na, oh, say this but I but I could - n't eat a - ny of your

Bass (B): Mo - na, I'm so say this but I but I could - n't eat eat your

18  
120

earwigs

S

A 1

A 2

T

B

124

S      a - ny - way      thanks      win - ter

A 1     a - ny - way thanks      you're sweet to re-mem - ber me out here      a - lone      this      win - ter

A 2     a - ny - way thanks      win

T      8      thanks      win      win

B      thanks      win      win

## earwigs

19

20

*earwigs*

Soprano (S) vocal line:

like an a - ni - mal a - ni - mal like an

Alto 1 (A 1) vocal line:

like an a - ni - mal a - ni - mal like an

Alto 2 (A 2) vocal line:

like an a - ni - mal a - ni - mal do do like an

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 like an a - ni - mal a - ni - mal like an do do do do do do *mf*

Bass (B) vocal line:

do like an do do do *mf* do do do do do do

136

Soprano (S) vocal line:

I think I I think.

Alto 1 (A 1) vocal line:

I think I think.

Alto 2 (A 2) vocal line:

I think I think.

Tenor (T) vocal line:

8 I think I think.

Bass (B) vocal line:

I think I think.