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This beast that rends me

from Sonnets of the Fatal Interview

For SATB (div.) chorus

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Stacy Garrop

This beast that rends me

This beast that rends me in the sight of all,
This love, this longing, this oblivious thing,
That has me under as the last leaves fall,
Will glut, will sicken, will be gone by spring.
The wound will heal, the fever will abate,
The knotted hurt will slacken in the breast;
I shall forget before the flickers mate
Your look that is today my east and west.
Unscathed, however, from a claw so deep
Though I should love again I shall not go:
Along my body, waking while I sleep,
Sharp to the kiss, cold to the hand as snow,
The scar of this encounter like a sword
Will lie between me and my troubled lord.

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This beast that rends me

sonnet by
Edna St. Vincent Millay

from *Sonnets of the Fatal Interview*

Stacy Garrop
2005

♩ = 120 Demanding
f

Soprano
This beast that rends me in the sight of all, This love, this long - ing,

Alto
This beast that rends me in the sight of all, This love, this long - ing,

Tenor
This beast that rends me in the sight of all, This love, this long - ing,

Bass
This beast that rends me in the sight of all, This love, this long - ing,

7
S. *ff*
this o-bliv-i-ous thing, That has me un - der as the last leaves fall,

A. *ff* *mf* <
this o-bliv-i-ous thing, That has me un - der as the last leaves fall, Will

T. *ff* *mf* <
this o-bliv-i-ous thing, That has me un - der as the last leaves fall, Will

B. *ff*
this o-bliv-i-ous thing, That has me un - der as the last leaves fall,

15 *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *mp* *p*

S. Will glut, will sick-en, will be gone by spring.

A. *f* *mf* *ff* *mp* *p*
glut, will sick-en, will be gone by spring.

T. *f* *mf* *ff* *mp* *p*
glut, will sick-en, will be gone by spring.

B. *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *mp* *p*
Will glut, will sick-en, will be gone by spring.

$\text{♩} = 72$ Mesmerized

24 *p*

S. The wound will heal, the fe-ver will a-bate, The knot-ted

A. *p*
The wound will heal, the fe-ver will a-bate,

T. *p*
The wound will heal, the fe-ver will a-bate, The

B. *p*
The wound will heal the fe-ver will a-bate,

29

S. hurt will slack-en in the breast; I shall for - get _____ be - fore the

A. The knot-ted hurt will slack-en in the breast; I shall for - get _____

T. knot-ted hurt will slack-en in the breast; I shall for - get be -

B. The knot-ted hurt _____ will slack-en in the breast; _____ I shall for - get _____

*Poco Rit.**Accel.*


34

S. flick-ers mate _____ Your look that is to - day my east and

A. _____ be - fore the flick-ers mate _____ Your look _____ that is my

T. fore the flick-ers mate _____ Your look that is to - day my east and

B. _____ be - fore the flick-ers mate _____ Your look _____ that is _____ my



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71

S. *f*
 coun - ter — like a sword — Will lie be-tween me and my trou-bled lord.

A. *f*
 en-coun - ter — like a sword — Will lie be-tween me and my trou-bled lord.

T. *f*
 8 this en - coun-ter — Will lie be-tween me and my trou-bled lord.

B. *f*
 — Will lie be-tween me and my trou-bled lord.

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