



Touch Me, I'm Sick: The 52 Creepiest Love Songs You've Ever Heard

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Love once inspired sonnets, plays, novels, and countless romantic songs. But romance can become obsession, and nowadays, love songs are creepier than ever. Even the Police's stalker anthem "Every Breath You Take" is a popular choice at weddings and funerals.

In *Touch Me, I'm Sick*, Tom Reynolds offers hilarious riffs on 52 love songs that have gone off the rails into the realm of the tawdry, the overwhelming, the obsessive, the self-absorbed, and the completely weird. Including songs by artists as diverse as Melissa Etheridge, Michael Jackson, Paul Anka, Sinéad O'Connor, and Slipknot, he also pillories a handful of the 1,700 different songs called "Butterfly."

Praise for Tom Reynolds' *I Hate Myself and Want to Die*

"A tremendous idea . . . Reynolds ameliorates the pain of having put his ear up close to some of the most inconsiderate despair anthems of our time by having enormous fun deconstructing them." —*The Sunday Times*

"Full of premium trivia and pinpoint pomposity-pricking, Reynolds has made comedy gold from the full base metal of misery."

"An entertaining and well-researched set of cautionary tales music fans will enjoy. Consider the list a batch of enthralling liner notes for a box set that comes with razor blades." —*Playboy*

"Bridget Jones would love it." —*The Scotsman*

Touch Me, I'm Sick: The 52 Creepiest Love Songs You've Ever Heard Details

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From Reader Review Touch Me, I'm Sick: The 52 Creepiest Love Songs You've Ever Heard for online ebook

Neil says

The more I get into blogging and nonfiction writing, the more I realize some of the inherent difficulties. Particularly, when you're writing short pieces that cover similar ground, it's very hard to stay original. That's why I have to admire this little book.

Reynolds takes 52 love songs, introduces them in a funny way, analyzes their content, and then makes a case for why they are creepy. What impressed me is that first, he's wickedly funny, and second, he manages to be funny in many different ways. He creates fake journals from the singers; he imagines real life relationships that try to use the ridiculous words from the songs; he analyzes the artist's libido; he riffs on their idiosyncracies; he makes fun of crazy fans or sometimes he just plain beats them up with the evidence of their own ineptness.

It's a little crass, and it's only entertaining when you know the song in question, but there's nothing wrong with having some browsable books around. He beats up on a few songs you probably love (and admits that he likes a few of these himself), but that's part of the fun:

I kind of like the tinny quality of the vocals on Animotion's Obsession and admit that Starland Vocal Band's Afternoon Delight is both an awful song and a guilty pleasure for me. I'm a fan of Sinead O' Connor and Joan Osborne. I join him in bashing James Blunt, Air Supply. I'm not sure that anything more can be said about the sublime awfulness of Muskrat Love or She's Having My Baby, about the strange rise and fall of Jennifer Lopez or the mediocrity of K-Fed, but Reynolds gives it all a good try. If you like music, particularly if you have fun analyzing music that is both catchy and bad at the same time, you'll have a lot of fun reading this.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This book should have been funnier than it was. The idea struck me as good and I'd seen a good review of the book, so I sent for it from the public library... and am glad I didn't buy it. While it's not awful, neither is it the kind of book I'd be going back to over and over for the laughs.

There are a few entries that are rewarding, mostly due to the writer's humorous turn of phrase. But there are also a few songs in the book that are pretty obviously in the book for a reason. Others the author had to strain a little to get the double entendres needed to make the song seem creepy.

Well, try the book for yourself if the synopsis seems to be something that you think appeals to you. For me...not so much. Again, not bad, not great. 3 stars.

Stephanie says

This is the second book of Mr. Reynolds in which he skewers both popular and obscure music. The first book

focused on depressing songs. This one goes after the standard favorite- the love song.

Mr. Reynolds is an engaging writer, knows how to put a book together well and at times can be laugh out loud funny.

The problem is he can be equally offensive too. I'm pretty sure he is well aware of this. Both books have had things about God/religion in them that I personally found offensive. So offensive that it greatly impacted my enjoyment of both books.

Maybe someone who doesn't believe or isn't as devoted to their beliefs wouldn't have been bothered, but I certainly was.

The other thing that really annoyed me about this book was he singled out a Motley Crue song for condemnation and not only trashed the Crue, and several other popular bands of the same genre, but the whole genre of "hair metal, glam rock, ect" going on and on how every band in it and every song they every put out sucked, how they were all terrible musicians blah, blah, blah...

As someone who has been a huge fan of the genre for many years and remains so today, that really didn't make me happy.

I suppose that's because I get so tired of seeing it trashed.

If you have given the genre a wide reaching and fair hearing and decide it truly sucks, then ok. That's your prerogative. However, it seems that many people who trash it today do so because after 1993, when hair metal fell out of fashion because of the rise of grunge, it became very acceptable and trendy to do so.

I don't know if that is where Mr. Reynolds was coming from in his criticism or not, but I found it annoying, regardless.

However, if you are someone who has more than a passing interest in music, likes to read about it and isn't bothered by the two issues I highlighted above, you'll probably really enjoy this book.

Alex Bledsoe says

I loved Reynolds' book skewering depressing pop songs ("I Hate Myself and I Want to Die"), and this collection is just as funny. He doesn't actually hate everything he covers--he likes the band Angels F*ck, and the German metal group Rammstein, among others--but he pokes holes in the hubris and pretension of so many deserving targets, with a pen (or rather, a cursor) dipped in acid. His "dear diary" chapter on "Fergalicious" is just one highlight. It's a great, funny book that says things we all feel, but says them in a far funnier way than we would.

Catty says

This is a book I never get tired of - in turns funny, intelligent and occasionally heartbreaking, this list of 52 of the creepiest songs ever made has something for everybody. Crazy songs ranging in genres from country to death metal? Check. Scary sounding foreign songs about even scarier subjects? Check. Taking the p-ss out of some of the world's most famous artists? Check. Dialogue that simultaneously makes you want to pee your pants laughing AND go out and You Tube Every.Single.One of these songs Right.Now? Check, check and check! All this and "Every Breath You Take" too...which trust me, is only the tip of the iceberg in creepy songs. Enjoy!!

Alissa says

HAHA! This was even better than Reynold's last offering.

Upon opening this book at random, the first phrase my eyes fell on was, and I quote, "makes Black Sabbath sound like John Denver" (Now *that's* seriously creepy! Come to think of it, John Denver in general is seriously creepy...and not just because of the Final Destination movie thing which, by the way, was totally lame). That and how much I enjoyed Reynold's "I Hate Myself and Want to Die" got me interested enough to keep on reading.

In this book, much as the title suggests, Reynolds analyzes and gives some well-deserved and creatively-worded disses to lyrical offerings by everyone from Fergie to Michael Jackson. That a tune by the self-dubbed Prince of Pop made the list was a given...but, SHOCK & GASP!, Reynolds even dared rip on The allmighty Beatles or, more specifically, Sir Paul McCartney (Not that I'm being critical here. The song he chose, "Run for Your Life," is most definitely creepy enough to earn the lyricist a free hug-me jacket. All I'm saying is Reynolds has guts to say what he said as I hear Sir Paul has quite the hot temper). Some other hilarious song reviews include those for Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know," Radiohead's "Creep," and what Creepy Song List would be complete without The Poliece's "Every Breath You Take" (a.k.a. The Stalker's Anthem).

Sure, in reading this you'll find yourself saying: "Hey! I *like* that song!", but Reynold's delivery is so creative you can't help but laugh at that same song. Besides, Renolds isn't telling you it's a bad song, he's not saying you can't like it...he's just saying it's creepy. And it is.

Goth Gone Grey says

Decent send up of creepy love songs

We need to first acknowledge that everyone has their own version of creepy love songs. For me, this book is missing an entire section: I've Been Watching You Grow Up, Now You're Old Enough To Bone. See also, many '50's and 60's love songs. (Shudder.)

I enjoyed the author's first book on depressing songs and wanted to give this one a go as well. It surprised me with some song meanings (Alive, really?) but I wasn't familiar enough with some of the others to know them. Due to them being creepy love songs, I didn't want to look them up either.

While it was an amusing way to pass time, I'm happy it was a Kindle Unlimited selection, thus free.

The author excels in verbally skewering bad music, but goes overboard here in trying to do so in poems, letters, and a poorly executed lesbian love scene.

Kristin Strong says

I am so glad I'm not the only person who finds the idea of muskrat canoodling repugnant. This was hilarious.

Vanessa says

I didn't like this one nearly as much as "I Hate Myself and Want to Die." The concept was stretched a little too far. I would have preferred a greater number of the songs to be primarily either unintentionally creepy or songs that are deceptively happy sounding. It might just be because he mentioned so many times that he had a hard time finding songs to put on the list, but I kept thinking that he might have been better off with a different topic.

I still finished it in just two sittings, and I had a great time listening to the songs as I read the book. The first night, I read until past one o'clock in the morning. I finally forced myself to stop with "You Outta Know," because I didn't think another song would top it. I'm not sure if it's creepy that I've returned to my "Touch Me, I'm Sick" playlist a few times.

I'm kind of tempted to look Tom Reynolds up to start my campaign for "The 52 Most Insulting Love Songs You've Ever Heard."

Lisa says

If you're anything like me, you'll have spent many a drunken hour debating the best/worst, most depressing/uplifting, or sexiest/creepiest songs you've heard. So a book on the creepiest love songs is right up my alley.

Encompassing both the intentionally and unintentionally creepy, this consists of both some excellent and some truly shit songs (my opinion on which these are differs at times to the author, who gets a glove-slap for making disparaging remarks about Eddie Vedder and Nick Cave, my imaginary boyfriend, while also mistakenly believing that *Top of the Pops*, on which Cave performed, is Australian. The flaming galah.)

I mostly approved of the selection although I'd swap a few choices which were wasted, as far as I'm concerned. The only creepy thing about James Blunt's *Your Beautiful* is Blunt himself (and the fact that so many people bought it) and Ashlee Simpson's *Pieces of Me* is only creepy when you wilfully misinterpret the title, as Reynolds does.

Other than those few minor niggles, this is still a great toilet read for fans of music and lists - though not if you're the type of person who thinks *Every Breath You Take* is appropriate for your first dance at your wedding.

Trin says

Reynolds skewers "The 52 Creepiest Love Songs You've Ever Heard." Well, sometimes he skewers; often

he just analyzes them. The book is funny, but nowhere *near* as funny as Dave Barry's Book of Bad Songs, which is the super-high standard I have to hold books like this against. I also wish Reynolds had focused less on songs that are intentionally creepy, like "Every Breath You Take" and "Possession," and more on songs that are creepy because of some other factor, like the creator's secret psychosis. (You know what I mean: what about The Flamingos' version of "I Only Have Eyes For You" or Johnny Mathis' "Wonderful! Wonderful!" or "Welcome Home" by Peters & Lee?) Still, it's a pretty enjoyable book, and yes, there is something DEEPLY wrong about "Your Body Is a Wonderland"!

Sherri says

Read this on a whim, I thought of the Gavin Edwards misheard lyrics books when I first saw this on the shelf at the library. It is more complex than the Edwards books, which just list the original lyric and the misheard versions below. Reynolds breaks down the songs into chords, time signatures and then the lyrics, where the meat of his snarkiness lies. Songs are broken down into categories and some choices are obvious such as "You're Beautiful" and "I've Never Been to Me." A few are surprising but probably shouldn't be, such as "Run for Your Life" and "Thank Heaven for Little Girls," which may be the creepiest of all.

Jo says

My current creepiest love song has got to be Steve Carlsson's 'Pinata Nova' where he sings "I don't know why, I'm always trying to get inside of you". Hmm, maybe because you're a man Steve and your brains are in your trousers. And likening his woman to a pinata, which from my understanding of American culture is something you hang up and beat with a big stick until it's innards burst out, doesn't seem that romantic. Reynolds takes 52 various love songs in a similar vein and discusses what makes them creepy. I found this funnier than 'I Hate Myself and I Want to Die' but that's probably because I know more of the songs. If you've got a couple of hours to kill there are worse ways to do so than by reading this book.

Robin says

After reading this book you will never listen to "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" or "Every Breath You Take" in quite the same way. I hooted, howled and giggled uncontrollably at the author's snarky and irreverent song descriptions. His first book, I Hate Myself and Want to Die: 52 of the Most Depressing Songs You've Ever Heard, was also hysterically funny.

Paula Dennen says

A hilarious look at 52 of the creepiest love songs both the intentional and the unintentional.

Featuring songs such as;

Creep by Radiohead

You Oughta Know by Alanis Morissette (although Reynolds does say that **"there's nothing more terrifying to men than a woman's anger, especially if there's a good reason for it."**)

Your Body Is A Wonderland by John Mayer

Possession by Sarah McLachlan

Alive by Pearl Jam

Father Figure by George Michael

Reynolds isn't saying that these songs are bad, just that they are weird in a very creepy way.

And if you're one of those people who think Every Breath You Take by The Police is an appropriate wedding song (seriously, who are these people!?), Reynolds will soon make you see sense.
