

# Siren Song

By Margaret Atwood

This is the one song everyone  
would like to learn: the song  
that is **irresistible:**

the song that forces men  
to **leap** overboard in squadrons  
even though they see the **beached skulls**

the song nobody knows  
because anyone who has heard it  
is dead, and the others can't remember.

Shall I tell you the secret  
and if I do, will you get me  
out of this bird suit?

I don't enjoy it here  
squatting on this island  
looking **picturesque and mythical**

with these **two feathery maniacs,**  
I don't enjoy singing  
this **trio,** **fatal and valuable.**

I will tell the secret to you,  
to you, only to you.  
Come closer. This song

is a cry for help: Help me!  
**Only you, only you can,**  
you are unique

at last. Alas  
it is a boring song  
but it works every time.