

Frank A. Wallace

# Bestiary

*for mezzosoprano, baritone and guitar, op. 20*

Score

I. The Sloth *Theodore Roethke*

II. The Cow *Theodore Roethke*

III. The Lady and the Bear *Theodore Roethke*

IV. The Star-nosed Mole *Nancy Knowles*

V. The Snake *Theodore Roethke*

VI. The Serpent *Theodore Roethke*

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for Marleen

# Bestiary

mezzosoprano, baritone and guitar

## I. The Sloth

poems by Theodore Roethke

Frank A. Wallace, op. 20

December 2001

**Grave**  $\text{♩} = 44$

Guitar

5 In mov - ing - slow he has no Peer. You

5 In mov - ing - slow he has no Peer. You ask him some - thing

10 ask him some - thing in his Ear, thinks a - bout it for a Year: And,

10 in his Ear, He thinks a - bout it for a Year: then,

15 be - fore he says a Word up - side down He will ass - ume \_\_\_\_\_ that you have Heard

15 There, \_\_\_\_\_ (un - like a bird), will ass - ume have

15 ④ 12

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21 A most Ex - as - per - at - ing

21 Heard— A most Ex - as - per - at - ing Lug.

25 Lug. He'll sigh and

25 But should you call his man - ner smug, —

29 give his Branch a Hug; Then off a - gain to Sleep he goes, Still

29 — a Hug; Then off a - gain — to Sleep he goes, Still

32 Still Still Still sway-ing gent-ly by his Toes, And you just know —

32 sway-ing gent-ly by his Toes, gent - ly by his Toes, And you just know



## II. The Cow

Theodore Roethke

**Andante** ♩. = 66

Andante ♩. = 66

There Once was a Cow with a

Dou - ble Under. When I think of it now, I just

have to Shudder! She was too much for One, you can

bet your Life: She had to be Milked by a Man and his Wife.

### III. The Lady and the Bear

Theodore Roethke

**Allegretto** ♩. = 92

Speak: "A Lady came to a Bear by a Stream." "O \_\_\_\_\_ why are you fish-ing that way?"

Tell me, dear Bear there by the stream, why are you fish-ing that way?"

"I \_\_\_\_\_ am what is

known \_\_\_\_\_ as a Bid - dly Bear, \_\_\_\_\_ That's \_\_\_\_\_ why \_\_\_\_\_

— I'm fish-ing this way. We Bidd - ly's \_\_\_\_\_ are Pee - cu - liar Bears, — And

5 9 12 16

21  
so, I'm fish-ing this way." "And be - sides it seems there's a Law: A most, most ex-ac-tious Law

25  
Says a Bear Does-n't dare Does-n't dare Does-n't DARE Use a Hook or a Line, Or an old piece of Twine, Not

28  
e-ven the end of his Claw, Claw, Claw, Not e-ven the end of his Claw. Yes, a Bear has to fish with his Paw, Paw, Paw. A

31  
"O it's Won-der-ful how with a flick of your Wrist,

31 *molto ritardando*  
Bear has to fish with his Paw."

35  
You can fish out a fish, out a fish, out a fish, If I were a fish I just



37 could - n't re - sist \_\_\_\_\_ You, \_\_\_\_\_ when you are \_\_\_\_\_ 15

37 8

0 1 3 2 1

3 4 1 2

40 fish - ing that \_\_\_\_\_ way that way." 15

40 8

4 2 2 1 4

tr

1 2 1 3

42 And at that \_\_\_\_\_ the La-dy slipped from the Bank And fell in the

42 8

2 4 1 3

1

47 stream still clutch - ing a Plank, As he went on \_\_\_\_\_ fish - ing his way, \_\_\_\_\_

47 8

But the Bear just sat there un-til she Sank; As he \_\_\_\_\_ went

47 8

52 fish - ing his way, \_\_\_\_\_ his way, \_\_\_\_\_ fish - ing his way.

52 8

on \_\_\_\_\_ As he went on \_\_\_\_\_ fish - ing his way, \_\_\_\_\_ fish - ing his way.

52 8

## IV. The Star-nosed Mole

Andantino ♩ = 96

Oh the

star - nosed mole is a bird with a soul

for ra - ther than sing

with a cheep cheep cheep or swim in the

o - cean so deep deep deep un - der our feet

he doth creep creep creep

③ 12  
② 12

## V. The Snake

Theodore Roethke

**ad libitum**

sustain all notes as long as possible

NARRATOR: I saw a young snake glide Out of the mottled shade And hang, limp on a stone:

A thin mouth and a tongue Stayed, in the still air. It turned; it drew away; Its shadow bent in half;

It quickened, and was gone. I felt my slowblood warm. I longed to be that thing,

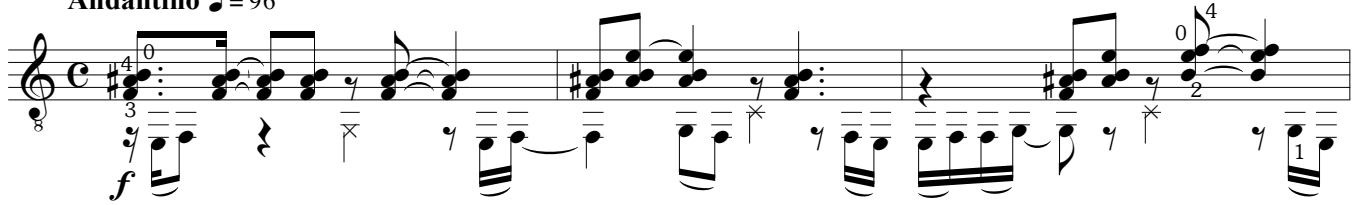
*Artificial harmonics*

The pure, sensuous form. And I may be, some time.

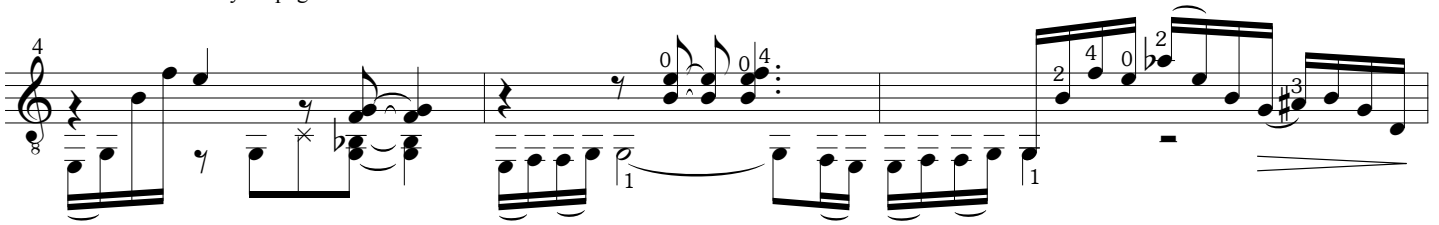
## VI. The Serpent

Theodore Roethke

Andantino ♩ = 96



Percussion key on page 18



The third system of musical notation includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "There was a ser - pent who had \_\_\_\_\_ to sing." The piano accompaniment is in bass clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "speaking", "There was There was", and "There was There was". The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a vocal line in treble clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "a m i".

The fourth system of musical notation includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "He simp-ly gave up ser-pent - ing" and "He did -n't like \_\_\_\_\_ his Kind of Life;". The piano accompaniment is in bass clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "There was There was Be - cause." and "Be - cause. Be-cause. Kind of Life;". The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a vocal line in treble clef, 4/8 time, with lyrics: "a m i".

14 He could-n't find a pro-per Wife; He was a Ser-pent with a soul; no Plea - sure down his

14 — pro - per Wife; He got no Plea - sure down his Hole.

18 Hole.

22 And so, of course, \_\_\_\_\_ he had to Sing, had \_\_\_\_\_

22 And so, of course, he had to Sing, had \_\_\_\_\_

25 — to Sing, And Sing he did like An - y - thing!

25 — to Sing, And Sing Sing ssssss \_\_\_\_\_



42 (thump, thump) They sent, to

Whack it. You al - ways send,

45 Cu - ba And got a

And got a

49 Most Com - mod - i - ous Tu - ba; They [They, They]

Most Com - mod - i - ous Tu - ba;

52 got a Horn, They got a got a Horn, They got a Flute,

mp They got a Horn, They got They got a They got a

*pizzicato*

*f*

*tr*

*mp*

*pizzicato*

55 But No - thing would No - thing would No - thing would No - thing would No -

55 Flute, But No - thing would \_\_\_\_\_ suit. No - thing would

57 - thing would suit. He said, *recitativo*

57 suit. "Look, Birds, all this is

57 *molto ritardando*

61 And then he cut loose with a Hor-ri-ble Note That

61 fu - tile:\_\_\_ I do not like to Bang\_\_\_ or Too - tle."\_\_\_

61 *move from bridge to neck* l.h. l.h. l.h.

64 prac - ti - cally split the Top of his Throat.

64 "You see," he said, with a Ser - pent's Leer, "I'm

64



67

And the Woods Re - sound -

Ser-i - ous a - bout my Sing-ing Ca - reer!"

And the Woods Re - sound-ed with man - y a

67

8

1

70

ed \_\_\_\_\_ Re - sound - ed \_\_\_\_\_ Re -

Shriek As the Birds flew off \_\_\_\_\_ to the end of Next Week.

70

8

1 3 2 4 3 3

72

sound - - - ed to the end of

As the Birds \_\_\_\_\_ flew off \_\_\_\_\_ to the end \_\_\_\_\_ of Next Week. \_\_\_\_\_

72

8

3 3 3

74

Next \_\_\_\_\_ Week.

clap

74

Next Week.

clap

74

8

2 4 9 3 2

faw • Bestiary • 17

## Percussion key for The Serpent

Ø = tap top with palm of hand behind bridge

X = tap top with RH thumb above hole

▲ = slap bass strings with RH thumb

\* = sharp slap on side of guitar with palm of RH

~~~~~ = RH flutter between thumb and a finger on top of guitar