

# The Bird in the Gravel

Jane Siberry

THE MASTER:

I was dreaming in the steam room  
Everything was so clear for a minute  
And I thought ...  
And the dripping tiles and ...  
And I said "I'll confess everything  
Yes. I own this land  
I own these forests surrounding my  
... My estate  
This is my tea coming  
Everything I can - I confess"

THE SERVANT:

Bend  
Now I have the bend  
The best I ever  
Place the tea just so  
Then release and turn  
Oh no not yet  
Then release and turn  
Turn away then go  
Better try again  
Looking at me he's  
Wait 'til tomorrow  
Don't want him to know  
Next time he orders tea  
Release and turn  
Turn and limp away  
Turn and limp away

THE MAID:

I was walking through the forest  
On my break today  
I had this funny feeling  
Something was going to change

I was walking through the dry leaves  
It was very strange  
They hadn't changed their colour  
All the leaves were green

I don't mind when it's over  
I don't mind when it's all done  
It's just the moments in between  
Just before it's gone

Something's going to happen  
Something's going to change  
I know I know I know ...

THE PANTRY:

And when autumn comes  
Well, there's lots of work to do  
Bill - that means you  
Time to clean the kettles  
And the pots on the wall  
Pickling and preserving

All the vegetables  
Stop kicking the apples  
Are we pickling this year?  
Yes - you know we are

And when autumn comes  
Well, there's lots of work to do  
Bill - that means you  
Time to get the twigs up  
You know, all those stick things  
Time to trim back the roses  
So next year even more grow  
Does it hurt them to do that?  
Does it hurt them? No

(Francesco the truck driver arrives)  
And when autumn comes  
Well, deliveries start to go  
Here he is now  
Down into the valley  
To the market he goes  
Down along the tiny roads  
That wind along the vineyards  
And people lean on their rakes  
And they say hello  
Hello there Francesco!  
Francesco there, hello!

THE BIRD:  
(high sustain)

A BOY COMING HOME  
FROM PIANO LESSON:  
(arpeggios)

ANOTHER BOY:  
And those are my swans  
Believe me ...  
There's no light  
And there isn't because ...  
It's so dark  
Because it's so dark  
Because it's so dark

THE MAID:  
I was walking through the dry leaves  
It was very strange  
The leaves fell without changing  
No yellows and no reds

Something's going to happen  
Something's going to change  
And just then as I looked up  
I remembered what you said

I'm crying because I love you  
I know that things must change  
I can't be there when you leave  
What if you're afraid?

You said something about the leaving  
The moments in between  
The yawning when the world shifts

The clanging of the trains

And a dog sits up and growls  
And a cow begins to bawl  
And a nun nearby stops to listen  
Cross herself and then move on

I was laughing in the forest  
I fell down in the leaves  
And I watched the trees above me  
Crossing in the breeze

I love the bare branches  
I love the healing bells  
The bareness in the last sun  
The greyness and the gold

And a flock of geese flew over  
And I laughed harder still  
I laughed 'til I was heaving  
Then everything was still

THE SERVANT:

Bend

Now I have the bend

Place the tea just so

Then release and turn

Oh not yet

Turn away then go

Better try again

He's looking at me

Wait until tomorrow

Don't want him to know

Next time ...

Time he orders tea

Release and turn

Turn and limp away ...

Limp away, just go

Turn away, just go

Just go ... just go ...

Just go ...