

STEVIE SMITH (1902-1971)

Stevie Smith _____

**Papa Love Baby**

My mother was a romantic girl
 So she had to marry a man with his hair in curl
 Who subsequently became my unrespected papa,
 But that was a long time ago now.

What folly it is that daughters are always supposed to be
 In love with papa. It wasn't the case with me
 I couldn't take to him at all.
 But he took to me
 What a sad fate to befall
 A child of three.
 I sat upright in my baby carriage
 And wished mama hadn't made such a foolish marriage,
 I tried to hide it, but it showed in my eyes unfortunately
 And a fortnight later papa ran away to sea.

He used to come home on leave
 It was always the same
 I could not grieve
 But I think I was somewhat to blame.

1937

Human Affection

Mother, I love you so.
 Said the child, I love you more than I know.
 She laid her head on her mother's arm.
 And the love between them kept them warm.

1942

Lightly Bound

You beastly child, I wish you had miscarried,
 You beastly husband, I wish I had never married.
 You hear the north wind riding fast past the window? He calls me.
 Do you suppose I shall stay when I can go so easily?

1950

Not Waving but Drowning

Nobody heard him, the dead man,
 But still he lay moaning:
 I was much further out than you thought
 And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking
 And now he's dead
 It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way.
 They said.

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always
 (Still the dead one lay moaning)
 I was much too far out all my life
 And not waving but drowning.

1957

