

Tom Waits

"Army Ants"

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The whirligig beetles are rare and fast
With an organ to detect the ripples
The arachnid moths lay their eggs inside other insects
along the borders of fields or roads in clusters of white
cocoon
The ribbed pinebore is a long horn beetle
Their antenna are half the length of their body
And they feed on dead red pine
Robber flies, with their immobile heads
Inject a paralyzing fluid into their prey
That they snatch from life in mid-air
The snow flea's mode of locomotion is strange and
odd
With a spiny tail organism with hooks
And a protruded tube from the abdomen
to enable moisture absorption
The female praying mantis devours the male while they
are mating
The male sometimes continues copulating
Even after the female has bitten off his head and part
of his upper torso
Every night wasps bite into the stems of plants
Lock their mandibles into position
Stretch out at right angles to the stem and
With their legs dangling
They fall asleep
If one places a minute amount of liquor upon a
scorpion
It will instantly go mad
And sting itself to death
The bombadeer beetle when disturbed
Will defend itself by emitting a series of explosions
Sometimes letting off four or five blasts in succession
The noises sound like miniature pop gun blasts
And are accompanied by a reddish coloured vile
smelling fluid
It is commonly known that ants keep slaves
Certain species, the so-called saguinary ants in
particular
Will raid the nests of other ant tribes and kill the queen
And then carry off many of the workers

The workers are brought back to the hive
Where they are coerced into performing menial tasks
And as we discussed last semester
The army ants will leave nothing but your bones
Perhaps you've encountered some of these insects in
your communities
Displaying both their predatory and defence
characteristics
While embedded within the walls of flesh
And passing for what is most commonly recognised
As human

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