

# Tell That to My Heart: Exploring the Enduring Charm of Tom Waits' Heartshaped

Nestled within the labyrinthine streets of Tom Waits' musical universe, "Tell That to My Heart" from his 1983 masterpiece, *Swordfishtrombones*, stands as a testament to the enigmatic and alluring power of his artistry. With its heart-wrenching melodies, evocative lyrics, and unconventional instrumentation, the song has captivated listeners for decades, earning a place as one of Waits' most beloved anthems.

## The Melodic Terrain

"Tell That to My Heart" unfolds as a melancholic ballad, its emotional weight carried by Waits' signature raspy vocals. The melody, like a weary traveler's lament, weaves through a labyrinth of minor chords, creating an atmosphere of both longing and resignation. The song's tempo, a slow and deliberate march, reflects the heaviness of the protagonist's burden, as each note lingers in the air like a poignant sigh.

## The Poetic Tapestry

Waits' lyrics in "Tell That to My Heart" are a tapestry of heartbreak and longing, rendered in his inimitable style. The protagonist, a man grappling with the aftermath of loss, pleads with an unnamed lover to understand the depth of his pain: "Tell that to my heart, tell it to my heart / Listen to it break." The imagery he employs is both vivid and haunting, evoking a world where "the rain falls down like wine" and "the moon is a silver bullet."

**Tell That To My Heart (Heartshaped Book 1)** by Eliza J Scott

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5



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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Language             | : English                |
| File size            | : 1197 KB                |
| Text-to-Speech       | : Enabled                |
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| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled                |
| Word Wise            | : Enabled                |
| Print length         | : 274 pages              |
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| Item Weight          | : 12.7 ounces            |
| Dimensions           | : 6.8 x 0.5 x 9.8 inches |
| Hardcover            | : 114 pages              |



## The Ritualistic Soundscape

The instrumentation of "Tell That to My Heart" is as unconventional and captivating as its melody and lyrics. Waits' harmonium, an ancient instrument known for its eerie and ethereal sound, provides a ghostly backdrop to the song. The eerie wail of a trombone weaves into the mix, adding a sense of foreboding and mystery. The unconventional percussion, including a body part that's tapped like a tambourine, creates a rhythmic tapestry that's both organic and unsettling.

## The Emotional Impact

Together, the melody, lyrics, and instrumentation of "Tell That to My Heart" create a potent emotional brew that resonates deeply with listeners. The song's raw vulnerability and aching beauty have made it an anthem for anyone who has ever experienced the pangs of heartbreak. It's a testament to the enduring power of music to capture the complexities of human emotions, and to offer solace and catharsis in our darkest hours.

## Critical Reception

Upon its release, "Tell That to My Heart" received widespread critical acclaim, with reviewers praising its emotional depth and artistic originality. Robert Christgau, in his review for *The Village Voice*, hailed the song as "as pure a heartbreaker as Waits has ever written," while *Rolling Stone*'s Dave Marsh praised its "spine-tingling intensity." Over the years, the song's reputation has only grown, with many critics considering it one of Waits' finest achievements.

## Live Performances

"Tell That to My Heart" has become a staple of Waits' live performances, where it takes on a new life in front of adoring crowds. Waits' live renditions of the song often differ from the studio version, with extended instrumental passages and improvised lyrics that give the song a unique and intimate feel. The song's emotional intensity is amplified in these live settings, as Waits' raw vocals and passionate delivery evoke a palpable sense of catharsis.

## Legacy and Influence

"Tell That to My Heart" has had a profound influence on countless musicians, both within and outside the realm of alternative rock. Its unconventional instrumentation and heart-wrenching melodies have inspired a new generation of artists to explore the boundaries of musical expression. The song's enduring popularity is a testament to its timeless appeal, and its ability to connect with listeners on a deeply emotional level.

Tom Waits' "Tell That to My Heart" is a masterpiece of songwriting, a haunting and beautiful ballad that explores the complexities of heartbreak.

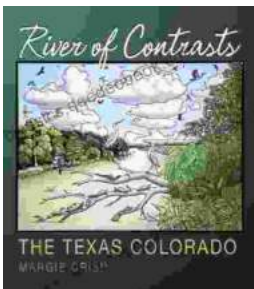
Its melodic terrain, poetic tapestry, and unconventional soundscape combine to create a song that is both timeless and deeply moving. Over the years, the song has become an anthem for those who have experienced the pain of loss, and a testament to the enduring power of music to heal and inspire.



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