

En svane (E. Grieg)

Norwegian lyrics by Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906)

Min hvide svane
du stumme, du stille,
hverken slag eller trille
lod sangrøst ane.

Angst beskyttende
alfen, som sover,
altid lyttende
gled du henover.

Men sidste mødet,
da eder og øjne
var lønlige løgne,
ja da, da lød det!

I toners føden
du slutted din bane.
Du sang i døden;
du var dog en svane!

A Swan

English translation

My white swan,
you mute, you quiet,
neither warble nor trill
let a singing voice be heard.

Fearfully protecting
the elf who sleeps,
always listening,
you glided away.

But the last meeting
when oaths and eyes
were secret lies,
yes then, then it sounded!

In music's birth
you ended your life.
You sang in death;
you were still a swan!