

‘Ça ne veut-dire rien’ or ‘All men are animals’

Words & music by
Peter Tranchell

Moderato *rit.* *Quasi recitativo* ,

All men are a-ni-mals... gi-ven half a chance, in
(colla voce)

suit-a-ble sur-round-ings, they'll suc-cumb to an-y ad-vance. So no matt-er who the chap, if you
(pausa non lungo)

set the ap-prop-ri-ate trap, – choose the right place, right time, right light-ing, and right drinks,

you can ig-nore his at-ti-tude or what he thinks. No need to be dis-con-so-late, – wheth-er he wants to let him-self

Composed: July 1948
(In the house of Hermione Gingold, Kinnerton Street, London)

Three versions of this song are held in the Cambridge University Library, classmarks MS.Tranchell.2.475/476/477, but none matches the format of this (6 pages of score with the words underlayed) in the possession of John Martyn of Hereford copied on a visit made in 2006. Tranchell included this song on the private recording he made of his songs in the 1950s, and there are some refinements of the words and adjustments to the melody in that version. (UL CD.080.34-35)

go, or no... In the e-vent he'll give way to you; and so I say to you: All men are a-ni-mals! His

1. fav'-rite co-lour may not be brown or green. His fin-ger - nails mayn't be long,
2. cult'-ral re - - fine - ment's in to - tal e - clipse. His walk has no tell - - tale

(spoken)

1. point-ed, and clean. He may not know what those camp words all mean. Don't worry!
2. sway of the hips. He looks strong and hai - - ry wear - ing beach-slips. Don't worry!

1. Ça ne veut-dire ri-en! He may have lots of girl friends to
2. Ça ne veut-dire ri-en! He is ser-ious mind-ed with pounds

1. kiss and get kissed.____ He may not know the ges - - ture____ called 'break-ing the wrist'.____ He
2. shill-ings and pence.____ Ne - ver looks in the mir - - ror____ on going to the gents'.____ He's

(spoken)

1. may seem to leave____ you____ off his short - list.____ Don't worr-y! Ç a ne veut-dire____
2. too butch to come____ your____ side of the fence.____ Don't worr-y! Ç a ne veut-dire____

Piu mosso a piacere

1. ri - en! A litt - le steer - ing and eng - in - eer - ing, - your
2. ri - en! A litt - le guid - ing, sit down be - sid - ing, and

tempo

1. stars will be car-eer - ing to - geth - er. And un - less there's some blun - d'ring, Your suc -
2. soon you'll be de-cid - ing his fate.____ But be ter - rib - ly sure____ that you

poco rit.
(spoken)

1. -cess will be thun - d'ring, and you'll give__ upwon-d'ring as to 'whe-ther'. (Forall men are a-ni-mals!) He
2. want him,for you're__ bound to get him se - cure__ on a plate.__ (Forall men are a-ni-mals!) You

1. may wear tweed coats,__ he__ may wear sport - ing__ caps.__ He may be a games - - man__ or
2. may catch his eye,__ he'll__ not guess what you in - tend.__ He may not want friends_ who__ are
(bounce?)

First time (spoken)

1. ath - lete per - haps.__ His chas - ti - ty may__ seem__ too strong to coll - apse.. Don't worry!
2. more than a friend.__ But play your hand care - f'ly,__ he's

(legato)

piu mosso

1. Ça ne veut-dire__ ri-en But once you've picked him, stud-y your vic-tim. You must

un poco meno mosso

1. know his ev'ry bent! Don't play his {mo - ther's} fav'-rite {song} while tempting him to {go wrong} and {wife's} {waltz} {be false}

rit. *piu rit. D.S.*

1. wear-ing the wrong scent may pre - vent the e - vent! (2) His

[Here the song should change its character, & become sad.]

second time *rit.* (spoken) *tempo*

2. yours in the end. Once or twice! And now's the time to worr-y, be - cause

2. Ça ne veut-dire ri - en! For all men are a - ni - mals, and when your

2. one night of love is through, it's no use i - de - al - iz - ing his re - la - tion - ship with you. For

(spoken) *Slower* *rit.*
 2. Ça ne veut - dire — ri - en! Too bad, but there it is. Ça ne veut - dire —

(spoken)
 2. ri-en! Ri-en! Ri-en!