

Rose-Mouth

Bocca di Rosa F. De André | G.P. Reverberi | F. De André © 1972 Universal Music Publishing Ricordi S.r.1

They called her Rose-Mouth she put love, she put love they called her Rose-Mouth she put love above everything.

As soon as she got off at the station in the little town of Sant'Ilario everybody realised with a glance that she wasn't a missionary.

There are those who make love because of boredom those who choose it as a profession Rose-Mouth was neither one nor the other she did it for passion.

But passion often leads you to satisfy your true wishes without investigating whether the object of your desire has a free heart or a wife.

And so it was that from one day to another Rose-Mouth drew upon herself the fatal wrath of the little bitches from whom she had stolen the bone.

But the old wives of a little village don't stand out for their initiative the countermeasures up to that point were limited to invective.

It's known that people give good advice feeling like Jesus in the temple it's known that people give good advice if they can no longer give a bad example. In this way an old lady who'd never been a wife who'd never had children, with no more desires took it upon herself surely with a certain pleasure to give all women the right advice.

And turning to those who'd been betrayed she cut them off with sharp words: "The theft of love shall be punished," she said, "by the established order."

And those ladies went to the police chief and said without paraphrasing: "That disgusting woman has too many clients, more than a food consortium."

And four gendarmes arrived with plumes with plumes and four gendarmes arrived with plumes, and with weapons.

Often cops and carabinieri neglect their duty but not when they are in full uniform and they put her on the first train.*

At the station they were all there from the police chief to the sexton at the station they were all there with red eyes and cap in hand.

To bid farewell to the one who for a while without claims, without claims to bid farewell to the one who for a while brought love to the town.

There was a yellow sign with black writing it said: "Farewell, Rose-Mouth, with you, spring leaves."

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But original news doesn't need any newspaper just as the arrow of an archer shoots it flies quickly from mouth to mouth.

And at the next station there were far more people than when she left who blow a kiss, who throw a flower and who book for two hours.

Even the parish priest, who does not disdain between a "miserere" and last rites the ephemeral wealth of beauty, wants her by his side in the procession.

And with the Virgin at the front and Rose-Mouth not far behind he carries around town sacred and profane love.

* In a second version this verse was changed to: A tender heart is not a dowry / of which the carabinieri are at the limit / but that time taking the train / they accompanied her unwillingly.

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