

**Toni Morrison, Song of Solomon**

“You all want a soft-boiled egg?”

“You ought to try one. I know how to do them just right. I don’t like my whites to move, you know. The yolk I want soft, but not runny. Want it like velvet. How come you don’t try one?”

“Now, the water and the egg have to meet each other on a kind of equal standing. One can’t get the upper hand over the other. So the temperature has to be the same for both. I knock the chill off the water first. Just the chill. I don’t let it get warm because the egg is room temperature, you see. Now then, the real secret is right here in the boiling. When the tiny bubbles come to the surface, when they as big as peas and just before they get as big as marbles. Well, right then you take the pot off. You don’t just put the fire out; you take the pot off. Then you put a folded newspaper over the pot and do one small obligation. like answering the door or emptying the bucket and bringing it off the front porch. I generally go to the toilet. Not for a long stay, mind you. Just a short one. If you do all that, you got yourself a perfect soft-boiled egg.”

**Bryan MacMahon, A final fling**

...“Tis an old saying that’ll make you laugh about a flirty woman: ‘She’d coort like a haggard of sparrows’. Will I tell you something else? I keep tablefowl as you can see. Right in front of my headstone the cock let down the wing and treaded the hen. I know I’m awful, sir, but I had to laugh at the antics of the birds. Sure ’tis only human nature.”

“Let down the wing is nice.”

**Francois Sagan, A certain smile:**

the smile that says you’ve just been laid...