

Better Off Dead

Randy Newman

When you fall in love with someone
Who doesn't love you
Someone who treats you so badly
It ramifies your head
Someone who doesn't want you
But won't let you go
Someone who thinks you're crazy
And tells you so
Over and over and over
If this happens to you
You'd be better off dead

You might be surprised to learn how often it can happen
In a love affair
(And boy does it hurt)
You fall in love with someone for whom you really care
And they treat you just like dirt
They make you feel kind of dirty and flirty
Hey I'm talking to you
Didn't you hear what I said?

Better off dead
Than living with someone
Whose every word's like a knife cuts through you
Better off dead
Than living with someone
Who just doesn't give a shit what happens to you
You know that's wrong
But you go on and on
Better off dead
Better off dead
Better off dead

When you fall in love with someone
Who doesn't love you
You better run for daylight
Just as fast you can (Little man)
Forget your foolish dreams and schemes that things will
work out in the end
Put some real mileage between yourself and the object of
you love my friend
Or become what you see
Yes, a loser like me
Someone who'd be
Better off dead
Better off dead

Musically, this one has a sort of overblown, heavenly quality to it. But lyrically, it's another story of a guy getting himself into a bad relationship that he can't get out of. He says, "When you fall in love with someone who doesn't love you/ Someone who treats you so badly it ramifies your head/ Someone who doesn't want you but won't let you go/ Someone who thinks you're crazy and tells you so, over and over and over/ If this happens to you, you're better off dead." It's exaggerated, but there's a kernel of truth there for so many people. You don't know what bad is until you feel that. I know what I'm talking about because I was once a woman who loved too much.

I know some critic is going to think I don't know what the word ramify means, or how to use it. made up an alternate verb form of it here, like a made-up R&B word, like the "puppetudes" of love. wanted to say how there would be ramifications from something that happens to your head in this kind of a relationship. I should've said "blamifies" or something to make it really obvious I was playing with the word, but I just didn't give a fuck.