

# Swordfishtrombones

Tom Waits

1. Well he came home from the war  
with a party in his head  
and modified Brougham DeVille  
and a pair of legs that opened up  
like butterfly wings  
and a mad dog that wouldn't sit still

He went and took up with a Salvation Army Band girl  
who played dirty water on a swordfishtrombone  
he went to sleep at the bottom of Tenkiller lake  
and he said "gee, but it's great to be home."

2. Well he came home from the war  
with a party in his head  
and an idea for a fireworks display  
and he knew that he'd be ready with  
a stainless steel machete  
and a half a pint of Ballentine's each day

And he holed up in room above a hardware store  
cryin' nothing there but Hollywood tears  
and he put a spell on some poor little Crutchfield girl  
and stayed like that for 27 years

3. Well he packed up all his  
expectations he lit out for California  
with a flyswatter banjo on his knee  
with a lucky tiger in his angel hair  
and benzedrine for getting there  
they found him in a eucalyptus tree

Lieutenant got him a canary bird and shook her head with every word  
and Chesterfielded moonbeams in a song  
and he got 20 years for lovin' her from some Oklahoma governor  
said everything this Doughboy does is wrong

4. Now some say he's doing  
the obituary mambo  
and some say he's hanging on the wall  
perhaps this yarn's the only thing  
that holds this man together  
some say he was never here at all

Some say they saw him down in Birmingham, sleeping in a boxcar going by  
and if you think that you can tell a bigger tale  
I swear to God you'd have to tell a lie...