






# Jesse Winchester's Studio

 Love. We know a little bit about love here at the studio, since it's one of the main ingredients in our songs. Every Monday morning a boxcar is pushed into our siding, where we unload crates and bales of broken hearts, first kisses, furtive betrayals and what not, reload the car with the fresh, steaming piles of songs we've created with last week's shipment, and send it on its way. You could think of love as the base of our song recipe, like alcohol might be the base for cough medicine. When we go home at night our clothes reek of love, our partners ask pointed questions about our day. So, like I say, we know a little bit about love, and it's this knowledge, and the practical tips and advice based on it, that make our songs so highly prized among people who love, or think they might like to love, or who've loved in the past and are trying to give it up. Here are some examples of the deep thinking we've done on the subject, fresh answers to some old questions:

 *Why do we fall in love? Is it merely to continue the species, or is love precious in its own right?*

We believe love is precious in its own right, although we've covered our bases by having children, too. Consider them lavish gestures of good will from us to the entire species, and there's no need to thank us.

 *But is there a deeper reason for going gaga over someone? Was Socrates right about our being only half a soul, always looking for the other half?*

Our research shows Socrates was one hundred percent right about love, on that point at least. You have to think the chances of running into your soul mate were a lot better in ancient Greece than they are today, given the increase in the world's population, but lovers seem undaunted by the odds.



*How can I make love last a lifetime?*

That's a good one. I guess you could attack the problem from the other end and take up smoking or sky-diving, but that's not a solution, is it? The truth is, many of us at the studio are wrestling with this question even now, and asking us for advice about making love last could be interpreted as cruel humour. We don't know, ok? Let's move on.



*What is it about love that makes us so stupid? Is there anything we can do?*

Even Lord Chesterfield, the great English deep thinker, was torn about love - "The sensation is exquisite, but the posture is absurd." Thanks to the enormous gap between our ideals and our behaviour, our rules and our appetites, we will always be a little ridiculous when we go courting, and that's why love strikes us stupid - it lets us accept absurdity without our minds interfering, demanding logic and raising doubts. It's like a natural defense, hormone secretion thing. Neat, isn't it? And no, there's nothing we can do about it. Why would we want to? If we get too smart about love, the race will die out.



*How do I find true love?*

Remember the alchemists' method for making gold - melt some lead in your crucible and don't think of the word "hippopotamus" for one minute? Finding true love is a lot like that - the trick is *not to look for it*. So cut it out. Think about something else if you can.



*Is there someone for everyone?*

All of us at the studio would like to think that there is someone for everyone. So we do.

Thanks for the visit,

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