

DANEEN WARDROP

Mozart's Starling

Mozart selected a starling as a pet and musical companion. . . . One of his notebooks records a passage . . . as the starling revised it. The bird imitated it closely but changed the sharps to flats. "Das war schön"—That was beautiful!—reads the comment in Mozart's hand.

—Susan Milius, *Science News*

Sing a song

of sixpence, a POCKET FULL OF RYE
four and twenty ^{blackbirds} baked in a

skreek, and he comes home, clicky-key
rattle, ahem, "Guten Tag, Liebchen," he says to me,
and I say to him, guten click, tag, baked in a ^{PIE!}

He can pace and pace. Scratches at the music-twigs,
a tune—I know it!

"Schön, yes?" he says. "You copy me, Liebchen,"
and turns a page, crisps
a turning page.

"Ach! But now I'm copying you—Scheiss!—my ink writes in your tweedle,"

and takes from the stand the huge feather, leaky blue—
gritchy, whistles it
gritchy, I sway to it—
skreek, what a dish to ^{set} before a

—soft beak, he has to say pretty birdy, pwready boody,
and I teach the soft beak,

wasn't that a TASTY dish
to set before ^{the}—

He's got it. Nattering
gut sequence. He's ruffling.

But one note's sharp.