

YOURE TWO EYN WILL SLE ME SODENLY

Roundelay

John Stafford Smith
(1750–1836)

Words by G. Chaucer born 1328

[Andantino ♩ = c. 86]

A

Youre two eyn will sle me so-den - ly will sle me

T

Youre two eyn will

B

Youre

4

sle me so - den - ly I may the beau - te of them

sle me so - den - ly so - den - ly I may the

two eyn will sle me so - den - ly I may the beau - te

8

not sus-tene so wend-eth it tho-row-out my herte my herte kene

beau-te of them not sus-tene so wend-eth it tho-row-out my herte kene

of them not sus-tene so wend-eth it tho-row-out my herte my herte kene

[FINE]

From Warren's Collection Vol .15.
The print has no punctuation, but does have slurs.
It is not recommended to attempt 14th C. pronunciation but rather to sing the modern versions of the words, most of which are still in use, albeit with different spelling and grammar.

A partially modernised version of the poem might run:
*Your two eyes will soon slay me:
I cannot bear their the beauty.
Thus it goes sharply all through my heart,
And only your words will quickly heal
My heart's wound, while it is fresh:
With sincerity I say to you, faithfully,
You are the queen of my life and of my death;
For when I die, the truth shall be seen.*

29

ly that ye ben of my

ly that ye ben of my liffe and deth the quene of my

ly that ye ben of my liffe and deth my

32

liffe and deth the quene for with my Deth the trouth shall be

liffe and deth the quene for with my

liffe and deth the quene for with my

35

sene shall be sene for with my

Deth the trouth shall be sene for with my Deth the

trouth shall be sene for with my Deth the trouth for

38

[D.C. al FINE] End with the First Strain

Deth the trouth shall be sene shall be sene

[D.C. al FINE] End with the First Strain

trouth the trouth shall be sene shall be sene

[D.C. al FINE]

— with my Deth the trouth shall be sene

YOUR TWO EYES WILL SLAY ME SUDDENLY

Roundelay

(modernised version, transposed up a tone)

Words by G. Chaucer born 1328

John Stafford Smith
(1750–1836)

[Andantino $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 86$]

A
Your two eyes will_ slay me sud-den - ly will_ slay me

T
Your two eyes will

B
Your

4
A
slay me sud-den - ly I may the beau-ty of them not sus-tain

T
slay me sud - den - ly sud - den - ly I may the beau-ty of them

B
two eyes will slay_ me sud-den - ly I may the beau-ty of them not sus-

9
A
so wend - eth it thro-rough-out my heart my heart keen

T
not sus-tain so wend - eth it thro-rough - out my heart keen

B
tain so wend - eth it thro-rough-out my heart my heart keen

[FINE]

From Warren's Collection Vol .15.

The print has no punctuation, but does have slurs.

This version modernises the spelling but inevitably leaves some old usage in place. The original poem, followed closely by Smith, runs:

*Youre two eyn will sle me sodenly
I may the beaute of them not sustene,
So wendeth it thorowout my herte kene.
And but your words will helen hastily
My hertis wound, while that it is grene,
Upon my trouth I say yow feithfully,
That ye ben of my liffe and deth the queen;
For with my deth the trouth shal be sene.*

29

ly that ye be of my life and death the queen of my

32

life and death the queen for with my death the truth shall be

35

seen shall be seen for with my death the truth shall be seen for with my death the

38

death the truth shall be seen shall be seen

[D.C. al FINE] End with the First Strain

[D.C. al FINE] End with the First Strain

[D.C. al FINE]

— with my death the truth — shall be seen