

# UNSONG

words and music by Tom Lehrer

(This song was written on spec in 1987 for a prospective TV series for the Disney Channel (never produced) intended to teach reading to children. Presumably, it would have been the soundtrack to an animated segment.)

[The characters: A is a nice guy, who wouldn't dream of making trouble for anyone. B is diabolical and loves to make trouble for people just for the fun of it. As we start, A is putting his wardrobe in order. During the first section A gradually becomes aware of what B is up to.]

A: I fold the shirt  
    B: I unfold the shirt  
A: I lace the shoes  
    B: I unlace the shoes  
A: I stack the clothes  
    B: And I unstack them  
A: I pack the clothes  
    B: And I unpack them  
    It should be clear to anyone:  
    Anything you can do --- I can un.

A (spoken): *Why, that's the most unheard of thing I ever heard of!*  
B (spoken): *I think you're getting the idea.*

A: I wrap the box  
    B: I unwrap the box  
A: I tie the string  
    B: I untie the string  
A: [trying to keep B away] I lock the door [between them]  
    B: And I unlock it  
A: I block the door  
    B: And I unblock it  
    Undoing things is lots of fun --  
    Anything you can do --- I can un.

A: I button my shirt  
    B: I unbutton your shirt [it falls off]  
A: I buckle my belt  
    B: I unbuckle your belt [pants fall down]  
A: [getting angry] I dress again  
    B: Well, just to impress you  
    I undress you. [A's clothes fall off, down to underwear. A sneezes.]  
    Bless you!

A (spoken): *Why, you unspeakable, unbelievable, unscrupulous, unmitigated...*  
B (spoken): *Don't forget "unfair"!*

A: I comb my hair  
    B: I uncomb your hair [it's a mess]  
A: I blow my nose [blows]  
    B: I unblow your nose [A inhales]  
A: *Oh, yukk!*  
    I make the bed  
    B: And I unmake it  
A: [trying to stop B, falls on bed -- it collapses] *Oops! I break the bed*  
    B: And I unbreak it  
A: [surprised that B has actually done something helpful] *Why, thank you!*  
    B: *You're unwelcome -- it was unintentional*

BOTH: "Un" can undo whatever you've (I've) done  
    Anything you (I) can do, I (you) can un!