

# Miss Otis Regrets

Words & Music by Cole Porter

Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day

Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day

She is sor-ry to be de-layed but last ev-'ning down in

Lov-er's Lane she strayed Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-

ab-le to lunch to-day. When she woke up and found that her

of love was gone Mad-am she ran to the man who had

led her so far a-stray and from un-der her vel-vet

gown she drew a gun and shot her lov-er down

Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It includes 12 measures of music with lyrics. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff, and guitar chord diagrams are provided for each chord. The diagrams show fingerings for the left hand, with red dots for fretted notes and black dots for open strings. Some diagrams include a '3' indicating a triplet. The lyrics are: 'Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day', 'Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day', 'She is sor-ry to be de-layed but last ev-'ning down in', 'Lov-er's Lane she strayed Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-', 'ab-le to lunch to-day. When she woke up and found that her', 'of love was gone Mad-am she ran to the man who had', 'led her so far a-stray and from un-der her vel-vet', 'gown she drew a gun and shot her lov-er down', and 'Ma-dam Miss O-tis re-grets she's un-ab-le to lunch to-day'.

2  
37

3  
G7 B F G D  
C C E G C  
5 Dm7 C F A D  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C C E G C  
5 Dm7 C F A D  
3 G7 B F G D

When the mob came and got her and dragged her from the jail Ma-dam they

42  
3 C C E G C  
5 A7 C# G A E  
5 Dm7 C F A D

her up - on the old low ac - ross the way

45  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C C E G C  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C7 A F E G C  
5 F C F A F

and the mom - ent be - fore she died she lif - ted up her

49  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C C E G C  
5 Dm7 C F A D  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C C E G C  
5 A7 C# G A E

love - ly head and cried Ma - dam Miss O - tis re - grets she's un -

53  
5 D7 C F# A D  
3 G7 B F G D  
3 C C E G C

ab - le to lunch to - - day.

**MISS OTIS REGRETS SHE IS UNABLE TO LUNCH TODAY..**

Many stories about the origins of songs are apocryphal, but the story of how Cole Porter came to write this song, seems to have withstood the ravages of time.

It would appear that Cole Porter was dining with friends, amongst who was his friend “Monty Wooley”. Monty Woolley was an American stage, film, radio, and television actor. Woolley and Cole Porter enjoyed many adventures together in New York and on foreign travels, although Porter reportedly disapproved of Woolley taking a black man as his lover. Woolley has been described in scholarly and other works as “gay, and closeted”.

During the meal a conversation around writing songs came up. Porter boasted that he could write a song about “anything”; with that, Wooley dared him to write a song about the next thing they heard from the table beside them. It was within a moment or so that the Maître d’ walked over to the table and announced that “Miss Otis regrets that she is unable to lunch today”

Cole Porter duly wrote a “story song,” told by Miss Otis’ maid or butler. It was first performed on stage by Douglas Byng in Hi Diddle Diddle, which opened October 3, 1934 at the Savoy Theatre, London