

# Laughing Matters

Bette Midler

Live at Five and CNN  
keep us all abreast  
of breaking stories that can tend  
to make us anxious and depressed.  
Problems with no answers  
hang on like some chronic cough.  
And every day some brand new issue  
rears it's head to piss you off.

Bad guys win.  
Optimism's wearing thin.  
Things are spinning out of control.  
Cynicism's all the fad.  
World events could make us mad  
as hatters.  
Almost every day  
some underpinning slips away.  
These aren't laughing matters.

Time bombs tick.  
People keep on getting sick.  
And a nickel's not worth a cent.  
Wickedness and greed abound.  
Just as peace is gaining ground  
it shatters.  
Hate is here to stay,  
and justice goes to those who pay.  
Friend, these aren't laughing matters.

The truth is scarier by far  
than anything that Stephen King could write.  
The stories in the paper are  
the daily small decline and fall  
spelled out in black and white.

Oh, what to do, what to do?  
how to take a brighter view  
when your noodle's totally fried.  
Human spirits need to be  
leavened by a little levity.  
So take those blues  
and bounce them off the wall.  
Keep your humor please,  
'cause don't you know it times like these that  
laughing matters most of all.