

The Ripp-along Silver Tide

Source Info:

Singer: Jane Gulliver

Place: Combe Florey

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Collector: Henry and Robert Hammond

MSS Source: <http://library.efdss.org/archives/>

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1. 'Twas of a lovely creature, who dwelled by the seaside
For her lovely form and feature, she was the village pride
There was a young sea captain who Mary's heart would gain
But she was true to Henery whilst on the raging main
2. 'Twas in young Henery's absence this nobleman he came
A-courting pretty Mary, but she refused the same
She said: "I pray you be gone, young man, your vows are all in vain,
And therefore be gone, I love but one, he's on the raging main.
3. With jealous desperation, this nobleman he did say
"For to prove the separation I'll take her life away
I'll watch her late and early till she's alone", he cried,
"I'll send her body a-floating, in the ripp-along silver tide"
4. This nobleman was walking out, to take the morning air
Down by the rolling ocean he met the lady fair.
He said: "My pretty fair maid, you'll consent to be my bride,
Or you shall swim far far from here in the ripp-along silver tide"
5. With trembling limbs, cried Mary, "My vows I never can break,
For Henery I dearly love and I'll die for his sweet sake."
With his handkerchief he bound her hands and plunged her over the side
Then shrinking her body went floating in the ripp-along silver tide.
6. It happened Mary's true love soon after came home from sea
Expecting to be happy and fix the wedding day
"Oh! We fear your true love's murdered," her ag-ed parents cried
"She caused her own destruction, in the ripp-along silver tide."
7. As Henery on his pillow lay he could not take no rest
For the thought of pretty Mary disturbed his wounded breast.
Oh! He dreamt that he was walking down by some river side
He saw his true love weeping in the ripp-along silver tide
8. Young Henery roved at midnight, at midnight gloom went he
For to search the sandbanks over down by the raging sea.
At day break in the morning, poor Mary's corpse he spied
As to and fro she was floating in the ripp-along silver tide.
9. He knew it was his Mary by the ring upon her hand
He untied the handkerchief which put him to a stand
For the name of her cruel murderer was full therein espied
Which proved who ended Mary's days in the ripp-along silver tide.
10. This nobleman was taken, the gallows was his doom
For ending pretty Mary's days, - she had scarce attained her bloom
Young Henery broken hearted, he wandered till he died
His last words was for Mary in the ripp-along silver tide.