

## The Dark-Eyed Sailor

(a)



'Twas of a come - ly young la - dy fair, Was walk - ing out for to take the air  
She met a sail - - or all on her way, So they paid att - en - tion \_\_\_\_\_  
So they paid a - - ttention \_\_\_\_\_ to hear what she did say.

(a) Variant, bar 1, verses 2 - 8



2. Says William "Lady, why roam alone?  
The night is dark and the day's near gone."  
She said, while tears from her eyes did fall  
"'Tis my dark-eyed sailor  
'Tis my dark eyed sailor  
That's proving my downfall"
3. 'Tis three long years since he left the land  
He took a gold ring from off my hand  
We broke the token - here's part with me -  
Whilst the other's rolling  
Whilst the other's rolling  
At the bottom of the sea.
4. Says William "Drive him out of your mind  
Some other sailor as good you'll find  
Love turns aside and more cold doth grow  
Like a winter's morning  
Like a winter's morning  
When the lands are covered in snow.
5. These words did Phoebe's young heart inflame  
She says "On me you should play your games"  
She drew a dagger and then did cry  
"For my dark-eyed sailor  
For my dark-eyed sailor  
A maid I'll live and die."

6. His coal-black eye and his curly hair  
His pleasing tongue did her heart ensnare  
Genteel he was, but no rake like you  
To advise a maiden  
To advise a maiden  
To slight the jacket blue
  
7. Then half the ring did young William show  
She seemed distracted 'twixt joy and woe  
O welcome William, I've lands and gold  
For my dark-eyed sailor  
For my dark-eyed sailor  
So manly, true and bold.
  
8. So in the village down by the sea  
They joined in wedlock and well agree  
So maids be true whilst your love's away  
For a cloudy morning  
For a cloudy morning  
Turns out a pleasant day.

Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath, 1952, collected by Peter Kennedy

© Gloucestershire Traditions