

Soon after he found that young Jimmy [was returning]
A letter he wrote to the boat's man-o-war
Saying "A handsome reward I duly will give you
If the life of young Jimmy you can but destroy."

[Void of all grace and for the sake of money,
The cruel boatswain the same did compete,
As they on deck were lovingly walking]
The body of young Jimmy overboard they did throw.

In the dead of the night when the moon did shine bright
The voice of her true love she thought she could hear.
She instantly raised from her soft downy pillow
And away to the window where she did appear.

Crying "Hush Jimmy boy, father will hear us
We both shall be ruined so great is my fear
Go you down to yonder sea shore and there I will meet you
And with my two servants to wait on you there."

And when she came there the spirit enfolded her.
More paler than death he appeared to be
"This is not the young man that I did admire
More paler than death he appears unto me."

"Yes, this is the young man that you do admire
Either dead or alive I'll prove constant to thee
And for to be true love thou must follow after
For my body lies buried in the watery deep."

"Yes, Jimmy boy I will follow after
And on thy cold bosom I'll take a sound sleep."
And very soon after the unfortunate lady
Her body lay buried in the watery deep.

Source: William Hedges (76), Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp, 10 August 1909.

Notes: Sharp entitled the tune transcript "Pretty Nancy of Yarmouth" but on the transcription of the words, he changed this to "Jemie and Nancy of Yarmouth"
Mr Hedges' text was incomplete and so it has been augmented from a broadside. Added words are in brackets.