

Reilly

2. John Reilly is my true love's name And he comes from the town called Lea
He is as nice a young man as e'er your eyes did see
My father he had riches great But Reilly he was poor
Be - - cause I loved my sail - or lad They could not me en - - dure

1. As I walked out one evening down by a riverside,
I overheard a fair maid as tears fell from her eyes,
"It is a dark and stormy night," these words I heard her say,
"My love is on the raging seas bound for Amerikay.
2. "John Reilly is my true love's name and he comes from a town called Lea
He is as nice a young man as e'er your eyes did see;
My father he had riches, but Reilly he was poor,
And because I loved my sailor lad, they could not me endure.
3. "Oh, mother dear, don't be severe - where can I place my love?
My very heart lies in his breast, so constant as a dove."
"No, daughter dear, I'm not severe - here is one thousand pounds.
Send Reilly to Amerikay to purchase you some ground."
4. Soon as she got the money to her true love she did run;
"This very night, to take your life, my father charged his gun.
Here is a thousand pounds that my mother sent to you,
So away unto Amerikay, and I will follow you."
5. When Reilly had the gold in hand, he straightway sailed away,
But e'er he set his foot on board these words to her did say,
"Here is a token of true love - we'll break it fair in two;
You have my heart, and half the ring; I will return for you."
6. It was three years from the time her true love sailed away,
Young Reilly he came back again to take his love away;
Their ship was wrecked, all hands were lost, and her father wept full sore,
For Reilly in his true love's arms lay drowned upon on the shore.

7. And at her breast a note was found, and that was wrote in blood,
Saying, "Cruel was my father to try to shoot my love,
So a warning to you all, fair maids, to you fair maids so gay,
Don't ever leave the lad you love, but sail to Amerikay.

Source: Performed by Mrs. P. Wiggett (Wickett), Ford. Collected by Cecil Sharp on April 9th, 1909

Notes: Sharp only noted verse 2 from Mrs Wiggett. The rest is from a broadside.

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