

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, collected by Peter Kennedy 1952.

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