

Ship's Carpenter' Mate (The Cruel Ship's Carpenter)

(Transcription of 2nd verse)

And he led her through woods and vall - - eys too, Un - til
this poor dam - - sel her start - - ed to weep, Love - ly
Bet - - sy, love - ly Bet - - sy I'm lead you a - - stray, For
all of this long night I've been digg - ing your grave.

Oh he drunk and he drunk, 'til he drunk all his store
-Dear Father, dear Father, I can't drink no more.-
And he goes to his lovely Betsy, so late in the night
-Lovely Betsy, lovely Betsy, won't you come along with me
To purpose our enemy, our friends they for to see.-

And he lead her through woods and valleys too,
Until this poor damsel she started to weep
"Lovely Betsy, lovely Betsy, I've lead you astray
For all of this long night I've been digging your grave."
There's your grave lying open, and the spade standing near
And into that cold grave her body he threw.

He civvered ["covered"] her over, so safe and so sure
And just to make sure, he went straightaway
For to 'list for some soldier, some ship carpenter's mate.

And it's up jumped the captain and called all his men
"There is murder, there is murder, so latelye been done
And our ship lays in mourning and cannot sail on."

For it's jumped up one of them, "Indeed sir, not me,"
Up jumped another, "Indeed sir, not me,"
Up jumped Sweet William with these words so unkind,
"Your honour, dear Captain, indeed sir, not me."

Now when he was a-leaving his captain in full speed
He met his lovely Betsy, it made his heart bleed
She ripped him, she tore him, and she laid him all three
Because he had murdered both baby and she.

Source: Sung by Wiggy Smith, Cheltenham. Recorded by Gwilym Davies
and Paul Burgess 1998.

Notes: Irregular length verses - fit to tune as required.

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