

Early early in the Spring

(Sung very freely)

1. 'Twas ear-ly, ear - ly in the spring, I went on board for to serve my King. And
leav-ing the love one, that I left be - - hind_ She now would re-quire_ of her sail-or boy.

- 'Twas early, early in the spring
I went on board for to serve my King
And leaving the love one, that I left behind
She now would require of her sailor boy.
- I built my nest on a (little ?) wee boat
And on the windy ocean I learnt to float
And every big steamer, that came passing by
She now would require of her sailor boy.
- She went straight out and she went on board
Crying "Captain, captain is my Willie here?"
(next line sung to same tune as first)
"What colour is your Willie's clothes?"
"His trousers white, and his jacket blue
His curly locks fill my heart with you (?)"
- "Oh no, my darling he is not here.
He's dead and drowned I do declare
For in yonder sea, where the wind blows high
That's where I left your young sailor boy."
- She went straight home and she went upstairs
And not a word to her mother said
Her mother followed her behind
And asked what was the matter with her daughter Pride.
- "Oh fetch me a chair and a pen and ink
A pen and ink and I'll write it down
And every line I'll shed a tear
And every verse farewell, Willie my dear
- Her father came home and he went in search
He went in search for his daughter Pride
He went upstairs and behind the door
He saw his daughter hanging by a cord.

8. He got his knife and he cut her down
And in her pocket this note he found
(Tune as per verse 1)
"Dear father, dear father dig me a grave
And line it out with lilies brave
And for my tombstone, place a turtle dove
To show the world wide I died for love"

Source: Sung by Norman Perks, Hawkesbury Upton. Recorded by Mike Yates 1977

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