

GOLDEN VANITY

There were a lot of sea chanties that dealt with the subject of the Captain's daughter. Can you imagine the desire that the common sailors must have felt for the only pretty woman on board ship, during a long voyage? They must have nearly gone mad.

In the same manner, the Captain would have guarded his daughter with an overwhelming sense of protective jealousy. That's what happens in this story. After using the poor cabin boy to do his dirty work, the cruel Captain leaves him to drown, thus saving his daughter for himself.

I've loved this song, ever since learning it at the Old Town School of Folk Music in the late '50s. Although I performed it at the coffee houses on Rush Street in Chicago, I never got around to recording it until now.

C
OH THERE WAS A LOFTY SHIP AND A LOFTY SHIP WAS SHE
F **G**
AND THE NAME OF THAT SHIP IT WAS THE GOLDEN VANITY
C **Am**
AND SHE FEARED SHE WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE TURKISH ENEMY
F **G** **C** **Am**
AS SHE SAILED ON THE LOWLAND, LOWLAND LOW
F **G** **C**
AS SHE SAILED ON THE LOWLAND SEA

UP STEPPED A LITTLE CABIN BOY, A CABIN BOY WAS HE
AND HE SAID TO THE CAPTAIN WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO ME
IF I SNEAK ALONGSIDE THE TURKISH ENEMY
AND I SINK HER IN THE LOWLAND, LOWLAND LOW
AND I SINK HER IN THE LOWLAND SEA

OH I WILL GIVE YOU SILVER AND I WILL GIVE YOU GOLD
AND THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER YOUR BONNIE BRIDE WILL BE
IF YOU'LL SNEAK ALONGSIDE OF THE TURKISH ENEMY
AND YOU'LL SINK HER IN THE LOWLAND LOWLAND LOW
AND YOU'LL SINK HER IN THE LOWLAND SEA

SO HE JUMPED OVERBOARD AND OVERBOARD JUMPED HE

AND HE SWAM ALONGSIDE OF THE TURKISH ENEMY
AND WITH A LITTLE DRILLING TOOL HE BOAR-ED HOLES THREE
AND HE SANK HER IN THE LOWLAND LOWLAND LOW
HE SANK HER IN THE LOWLAND SEA

THEN HE TURNED HIMSELF AROUND AND BACK AGAIN SWAM HE
'TIL HE CAME TO THE SIDE OF THE GOLDEN VANITY
BUT THE CAPTAIN WOULD NOT HEED, FOR HIS DAUGHTER HE DID NEED
AND HE LEFT HIM IN THE LOWLAND LOWLAND LOW
HE LEFT HIM IN THE LOWLAND SEA

WELL HIS SHIPMATES BROUGHT HIM OUT, BUT UPON THE DECK HE DIED
AND THEY WRAPPED HIM IN HIS BLANKET THAT WAS SO SOFT AND WIDE
AND THEY CAST HIM OVERBOARD AND HE DRIFTED WITH THE TIDE
AND HE SANK BENEATH THE LOWLAND LOWLAND LOW
HE SANK BENEATH THE LOWLAND SEA
AND HE SANK BENEATH THE LOWLAND LOWLAND LOW
HE SANK BENEATH THE LOWLAND SEA

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