

Billy Taylor

traditional; adaptation by Janie Meneely

Billy Taylor and the deacon's daughter
Getting ready for to wed
He's shanghaied like a drunken sailor
Hauled to the oyster rock instead

She takes off her dress of linen
Pulls on leggings like a man
Hires out to a skipjack captain
To find her Billy if she can

CHORUS:

Have you seen my Billy, oh
Have you seen my Billy?
Have you seen my Billy, oh
Have you seen my Billy?

When the dredge comes full of oysters
She bends to like all the rest
Snaps a button off her jacket
Captain spies her lily breast

Won't you tell me, pretty maiden
What it is that brought you here?
I am searching for my true love
Shanghaied off a Fell's Point pier

CHORUS

I would help you, pretty maiden
Won't you tell to me his name
He was christened Billy Taylor
And he is one and the same

CHORUS

Captain wrung his hands in sorrow
And he looked at her with dread
Pretty maid, I'd rather tell you
That your Billy Taylor's dead

CHORUS

Captain tell me, oh pray tell me
Though it break my heart to know
I have come this far to find him
Round the world I'd gladly go

CHORUS

You needn't travel and farther
Than the church in Crisfield town
There tomorrow Billy Taylor
Will be wed to Lucy Brown

Instrumental break: Haste to the Wedding

She set out for Crisfield proper
When she heard the church bells chime
Ringing out, the deacon told her,
For Billy Taylor and his bride

CHORUS

She drew forth a brace of pistols
That she had at her command
And she shot her Billy Taylor
With his bride at his right hand

CHORUS