

Down To A Sunless Sea

Dan Tappan - May 2016

6/8 time. Capo 2 - Key of Bm

Based on a story by Neil Gaiman in "Trigger Warning" story collection

Am Dm G Am

As I sat by the dock, in the chill of the evening
A woman approached me, her manner unnerving
Her tone it was flat, her face 'twas old.

The words that she spoke, made my blood cold
as I sat there captive, she told this story to me.

Dm G

My son was a sailor lad, dreamt of the sea.

All his ambitions confided in me

To return as a captain of wealth and renown

Buy me a house in the center of town

But feared in my heart he would follow his father

and all of those sailors, one after another,
who left with the tide but never returned from the sea

They told me his ship by storm waves was tossed,
And near all the sailors aboard her were lost.

Told me my son with his shipmates was drowned,
Swept into the ocean; body not found.

Insurers paid off for ship and the cargo
but not for the sailors who'd given their lives, though
they labored to save her before she was claimed by the sea

But the mate of the vessel returned from the brine.

A friend of my husband's, but better of mine.

Told me a tale of a boat on the ocean.

Eight shipwrecked sailors; days of starvation.

In the end they drew lots, so some could survive.

My son was the smallest, barely alive

They picked his bones clean and buried their crime in the sea

He thought I should know; brought me this token

I wear on my neck, tho' my heart's broken.

They'd all sworn an oath, yet he told me their secret.

The one I revealed to him cut his heart deeper.

What he'd done to his son, he could not endure,

Turned and he left me and walked to the shore,

Put stones in his pockets and waded out into the sea.

[Intro chords]

She showed me the bone, she word at her throat.

Vanished in shadow, so the spell broke.

I sat alone in the chill of the evening.

Stared at the ocean, felt my heart beating,

And pondered her story, and all who work on the sea

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