

The Mermaid (Jim Friedman / Shel Silverstein)

Intro: F / C (x4)

C
When I was a lad in a fishing town
F C
Me old man said to me:
Am
"You can spend your life, your jolly life
D G
Just sailing on the sea.
C
You can search the world for pretty girls
F Em
Til your eyes are weak and dim,
F C Am
But don't go searching for a mermaid, son
F G C
If you don't know how to swim"

Chorus:

F C
'Cause her hair was green as seaweed
F C
Her skin was blue and pale
F C
Her face it was a work of art,
F C
I loved that girl with all my heart
F C Am
But I only liked the upper part
F G C C / G (x2)
I did not like the tail

C
I signed onto a sailing ship
F C
My very first day at sea
Am
I seen the Mermaid in the waves,
D G
Reaching out to me
C
"Come live with me in the sea" said she,
F Em
Down on the ocean floor
F C Am
And I'll show you a million wonderous things
F G C
You've never seen before

C
So over I jumped and she pulled me down,
F C
Down to her seaweed bed
Am
A pillow made of a tortoise-shell
D G
She placed beneath my head
C
She fed me shrimp and caviar
F Em
Upon a silver dish
F C Am
From her head to her waist it was just my taste
F G C
But the rest of her was a fish

(Chorus)

C
But then one day, she swam away
F C
So I sang to the clams and the whales
Am
"Oh, how I miss her seaweed hair
D G
And the silver shine of her scales
C
But then her sister, she swam by
F Em
And set my heart awhirl
F C Am
Cause her upper part was an ugly fish
F G C
But her bottom part was a girl
F C
Yes her hair was green as seaweed
F C
Her skin was blue and pale
F C
Her legs they are a work of art,
F C
I love that girl with all my heart
F C
And I don't give a damn about the upper part
F G C
Cause that's how I get my tail.

The Mermaid (Traditional / Andrew Draskoy)

G **C** **G**
It was Friday morn when we set sail
C **D** **G**
And we were not far from the land
G **C** **G**
When the captain, he spied a mermaid so fair
C **D** **G**
With a comb and a glass in her hand

Refrain:

G
And the ocean's waves do roll
G7 **D**
and the stormy winds do blow
G **C** **G**
And we poor sailors are skipping at the top
C **D** **G**
While the landlubbers lie down below, below,
below
C **D** **G**
While the landlubbers lie down below

G **C** **G**
And up spoke the captain of our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And a fine old man was he
G **C** **G**
This fishy mermaid has warned me of our doom
C **D** **G**
We shall sink to the bottom of the sea

(Refrain)

G **C** **G**
Then up spoke the mate of our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And a fine spoken man was he
G **C** **G**
Sayin' I have a wife in Brooklyn by the sea
C **D** **G**
And tonight a widow she will be

(Refrain)

G **C** **G**
Then up spoke the bosun of our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And brave young lad was he
G **C** **G**
Sayin' I have a sweetheart in Salem by the sea
C **D** **G**
And tonight she'll be weepin' for me

(Refrain)

G **C** **G**
And up spoke the cook of our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And a crazy old butcher was he
G **C** **G**
I care much more for my pots and my pans
C **D** **G**
Than I do for the bottom of the sea

(Refrain)

G **C** **G**
Then up spoke the cabin boy of our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And a nasty little lad was he
G **C** **G**
And said, "I'm not sure I can spell 'mermaid' "
C **D** **G**
But I'm going to the bottom of the sea

(Refrain)

G **C** **G**
Then three times around spun our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And three times around spun she
G **C** **G**
And three times around spun our gallant ship
C **D** **G**
And she sank to the bottom of the sea

(Refrain) (2x)