

The Maiden And The Selkie

Heather Dale

Once a fair and handsome Seal Lord
Lay his foot upon the sand
For to woo the fisher's daughter
And to claim her marriage hand

I have come in from the ocean
I have come in from the sea
And I'll not go to the waves, love
Lest ye come along with me

Lord, long have I loved you
As a Selkie on the foam
I would gladly go and wed ye
And be lady of your home

But I cannot go into the ocean
I cannot go into the sea
I would drown beneath the waves, love
If I went along with thee

Lady, long have I loved you
I would have you for my wife
I will stay upon your shoreland
Though it robs me of my life

I will stay one night beside you
Never go back to the sea
I will stay and be thy husband
Though it be the death of me

Lord, I cannot go and wed thee
All to watch my lover die
Since I'll not be left a widow
I have a plan for us to try

Let us speak with my grandmother
Who has ever dwelt beside the sea
She may know some trick or treasure
That I may wed my fair Selkie

So they've gone to her grandmother's
Little cottage by the sea
To inquire how a maiden
Can be wed to her Selkie

For the Selkie's watery kingdom
Would surely rob her of her breath
But to stay on land past midnight
It would surely be his death

Lord, I know not how to aid you
You may never live on shore
For your kind to live till dawning
It has never been seen before

But my mother had a seal coat
That she buried beneath the tree

And she told me that its wearer
Would become a fair Selkie

So they've journeyed farther inland
Though the Seal Lord's getting weak
And she's shouldering the shovel
To unearth the thing they seek

At the rising of the fullmoon
Underneath the elfen oak
She has unearthed that faery treasure
Of which her grandmother spoke

Just before the stroke of midnight
They have made it back to sea
And she has donned the magic seal coat
And become a maid Selkie

Now they've gone into the ocean
Hand in hand into the sea
She has gone along
A fair seal bride for a Selkie