

# The Mary Ellen Carter

Stan Rogers

THE MARY ELLEN CARTER

(Stan Rogers)

She went down last October in a pouring driving rain  
The skipper, he'd been drinking and the Mate, he felt no pain  
Too close to Three Mile Rock, and she was dealt her mortal blow  
And the Mary Ellen Carter settled low.

There were just us five aboard her when she finally was awash  
We'd worked like hell to save her, all heedless of the cost  
And the groan she gave as she went down, it caused us to proclaim  
That the Mary Ellen Carter would rise again.

Well, the owners wrote her off; not a nickel would they spend  
She gave twenty years of service, boys, then met her sorry end  
But insurance paid the loss to us, so let her rest below  
Then they laughed at us and said we had to go.

But we talked of her all winter, some days around the clock  
She's worth a quarter million, afloat and at the dock  
And with every jar that hit the bar, we swore we would remain  
And make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

Rise again! Rise again!

That her name not be lost to the knowledge of men  
Those who loved her best and were with her till the end  
Will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again!

All spring, now, we've been with her on a barge lent by a friend  
Three dives a day in hard hat suit and twice I've had the bends  
Thank God it's only sixty feet and the currents here are slow  
Or I'd never have the strength to go below.

But we patched her rents, stopped her vents, dogged hatch and porthole down  
Put cables to her fore and aft and girded her around  
Tomorrow, noon, we hit the air and then take up the strain  
And make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

Rise again! Rise again!

That her name not be lost to the knowledge of men  
Those who loved her best and were with her till the end  
Will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again!

For we couldn't leave her there, you see, to crumble into scale  
She'd saved our lives so many times, living through the gale  
And the laughing, drunken rats who left her to a sorry grave  
They won't be laughing in another day.

And you, to whom adversity has dealt the final blow  
With smiling bastards lying to you everywhere you go  
Turn to, and put out all your strength of arm and heart and brain  
And like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!

Rise again! Rise again!

Though your heart it be broken or life about to end  
No matter what you've lost, be it a home, a love, a friend  
Like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!

Rise again! Rise again!

Though your heart it be broken or life about to end  
No matter what you've lost, be it a home, a love, a friend  
Like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again!

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Written and recorded by Stan Rogers on Between the Breaks ....Live.

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