

# Maggie May

Traditional, U.K./Liverpool (1890's); Lonnie Donegan (1957)

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they have taken her away  
And she'll never walk down Lime Street any more  
Oh, she robbed so many sailors, and the captains of the whalers  
That dirty, no-good, robbing Maggie May

O gather round, you sailor boys, and listen to my plea  
And when you've heard my tale you'll pity me  
I was a damn young fool, in the port of Liverpool  
The very first time that I came home from sea

I was paid off at the Home, from a voyage to Sierra Leone  
The three pounds ten a month that was my pay  
With a pocket full of tin I was easily taken in  
By a girl by the name of Maggie May

## Chorus

Oh the first time I saw Maggie, she took my breath away  
She was cruising up and down old Canning Place  
She'd a figure so divine, like a frigate of the line  
So me, being a sailor, I gave chase

She gave me a saucy nod, and like a farmer's clod  
I let her take me line abreast in tow  
And under all plain sail we ran before the gale  
And to the Crow's Nest Tavern we did go

## Chorus

In the morning I awoke, and I found that I was broke  
No shoes, no shirt, no trousers could I find  
When I asked her where there were, she told me, "My good sir,  
They're down in Kelly's pawnshop, number 9"

To the pawnshop I did go, no clothes there did I find  
So the police came and took that girl away  
And the judge he guilty found her, of robbing the homeward-bounder  
And paid her passage out to Botany Bay

## Chorus

chorus:

F, C

C, G

C, F

G, C

verse:

C, F-C

C, G

C, F

G, C

Now gather round you sailor boys, and listen to my plea  
And when you've heard my tale you'll pity me  
For I was a real damned fool in the port of Liverpool  
The first time that I came home from the sea

I was paid off at the Home, from a voyage to Sierra Leone  
Two pounds ten and sixpence was my pay  
When I drew the tin I grinned, but I very soon got skinned  
By a girl by the name of Maggie May

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they've taken you away  
They've sent you to Van Diemen's cruel shore  
For you robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler  
And you'll never shine in Paradise Street no more

I shan't forget the day when I first met Maggie May  
She was cruising up and down on Canning Place  
With a figure so divine, like a frigate of the line  
So, being a sailor, I gave chase

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they've taken you away  
They've sent you to Van Diemen's cruel shore  
For you robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler  
And you'll never shine in Paradise Street no more

Next day I woke in bed, with a sore and aching head  
No shoes, or shirt, or trousers could I find  
I asked her where they were, and she answered, "My dear sir,  
They're down in Kelly's knock-shop, number nine"

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they've taken you away  
They've sent you to Van Diemen's cruel shore  
For you robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler  
And you'll never shine in Paradise Street no more

Oh, you thieving Maggie May, you robbed me of my pay  
When I slept with you last night ashore  
And the judge he guilty found her of robbing a homeward-bounder  
And she'll never roam down Paradise Street no more

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they've taken you away  
They've sent you to Van Diemen's cruel shore  
For you robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler  
And you'll never shine in Paradise Street no more