

Mary Ellen Carter

Stan Rogers III-72

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

There were five of us 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
 Am D G
 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 them, they 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,
 For 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.

Am D G G/F# C G D
Chorus: Rise again, rise again, that her name not be lost to the knowledge of men.
 G G/F# C D G
 All those who loved her best and were with her 'til the end
 Am D G
 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've patched her rents, stopped her vents, dogged hatch and porthole down.
 Put cables to her, 'fore and aft and birded her around.
 Tomorrow, noon, we hit the air and then take up the strain.
 And watch the Mary Ellen Carter Rise Again.

Chorus

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
 And 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.