

What Did The Deep Sea Say – Woodie Guthrie, trad.[d]

From Smithsonian/Folkways 40007 with Leadbelly, Cisco Houston, Sonny Terry, Bess Hawes.

Oh ¹captain, ⁵tell me ¹true 1 5 1
⁴Does my sailor sail with ¹you 4 1
⁴No, he does not ¹sail with ⁶⁻me 4 1 6-
He ¹sleeps on the ⁵bottom of the ¹sea 1 5 1

Chorus:

what did the deep sea say 1 5 1
Tell me what did the deep sea say 4 1
It moaned and groaned and it splashed and it foamed 4 1 6-
And it rolled on it's wea-ry way 1 5 1

well he promised he'd write to me 1 5 1
But his promise he never kept true 4 1
Never a word from my sailor have I heard 4 1 6-
Since he sailed on that ocean blue 1 5 1

(Chorus)

A beautiful rose every day 1 5 1
I place on the crest of the waves 4 1
said take it please and let the pedals fall 4 1 6-
Above, his watery grave 1 5 1

[Break(s)]

(Chorus *3 to end)

Other Verses:

where is my sailor boy, If only my dreamin soul
where is my sailor boy Some token of love could find
He sleeps at the bottom of the deep blue sea If only the waves would show me where he sleeps
And he can't come back to me Then I'd leave this world behind

I stand on the beach alone The driftwood I watched in vain
And gaze at the mysty blue My rose never came back again
Deep sea as you hold him to your breast Deep sea take another message to my love
Does he mention my name to you? Saying I'll meet him above

Oh please tell me deep blue sea
Is he sleeping peacefully
The winds from the north are blowing icy cold
Please keep him warm for me