When The Master Calls The Roll

Rosanne Cash

Girl with hair of flaming red Seeking perfect lover

For to lie down on her feather bed

Soul secrets to uncoverMust be gentile, must be strong

With disposition sunny

Just as faithful as the day is long

And careful with his moneyAnd so the open letter read

The news boy did deliver

Three months later plans were made to wed

Down by the King James riverKnow the season may come

Know the season may go

When love is joined together

With whoever be made whole

When the master calls the rollOh my darling will you leave?

Take me to the altar

I don't have strength to watch you as you leave

But my love will never fault herOh my darling Marry Anne

The march to war is calling

Somewhere far across these southern lands

The bands of brothers fallingMy tender bride, the tides demand

That I leave you with your mother

With my father's riffle in one hand

Your locket in the otherKnow the season may come

Know the season may go

Beware the storm clouds gather

Take heat in warm of soul

When the master calls the rollBut can this union be preserved?

The soldier boy was crying

I will never travel back to her

But not for lack of tryingIt's a love of one true heart at last

That made the boy a hero

But a riffle ball and a cannon blast

Cut him down to zeroOh Virginia once I came

I'll see you when I'm younger

And I'll know you by your hills again

This town from 6 feet underKnow the season may come

Know the season may go

A man is torn asunder

But someday we may know

When the master calls the rollThough the storm clouds gather Let the union be made whole When the master calls the roll

Songwriters
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