There Goes Mavis

Richard Shindell

The beach at Newcomb Hollow

The last days of August

The other side of low tide

The sun is high, the sun is highWere kneeling in the wet sand

Stopping up a wall breach

Quick, before the next wave

Rushes in, rushes in The mote around the castle

Is filling up with water

But hope springs eternal

All hands ready here it comesBehind us in the crowd

Some kind of commotion

A little girl is shouting

Fly away! Fly away!But we pay no attention

The castle is in danger

The ramparts are sinking

We dig on, we dig on Then out of the blue

Theres an orange canary

On our driftwood flagpole

Shovels down Boys! step awayThe little girl comes running

She cant be more than seven

Her mother is behind her

With a cage, with a cageAnd her mother is explaining

Baby, its just too far

And shell never survive here

On her own, on her ownBut the little girls not listening

Shes talking to the bird

Mavis you can trust me

Nows your big chance

Fly away!If Mavis has been listening

She isnt letting on

Were all just waiting

No one moves, no one moves And then comes the wave

Swamping the castle

No one is watching

When it falls, when it fallsWere following the progress

Of a little bolt of orange

On the long horizon

There goes Mavis

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