

# The mermaid

## Mari Boine

The Mermaid by Great Big Sea  
When I was a lad in a fishin' town  
    My old man said to me:  
    "You can spend your life, your jolly life  
        Just sailin' on the sea.  
    You can search the world for pretty girls  
        Til your eyes grow weak and dim,  
    But don't go searchin' for a mermaid, son  
        If you don't know how to swim"  
            (course)  
    'Cause her hair was green as seaweed  
        Her skin was blue and pale  
Her face, it was a work of art, I loved that girl with all my heart  
    I only liked the upper part  
        I did not like the tail  
    I signed onto a sailing ship  
        My first very day at sea  
    I seen the mermaid in the waves,  
        Reaching out to me  
    "Come live with me in the sea said she,  
        Down on the ocean floor  
And I'll show you a million wonderous things,  
    you've never seen before  
    So over I jumped and she pulled me down,  
        Down to her seaweed bed  
    And a pillow made of tortoise-shell  
        She placed beneath my head  
    She fed me shrimp and caviar  
        Upon a silver dish  
From her head to her waist it was just my taste  
    But the rest of her was a fish  
            (course)  
        Then one day, she swam away  
    So I sang to the clams and the whales  
        "Oh, how I miss her seaweed hair  
        And the silver shine of her scales  
        But then her sister, she swam by  
            Set my heart awhirl  
    'Cause her upper part was an ugly fish

An er bottom part was a girl  
Yes her hair was green as seaweed  
Her skin was blue and pale, her legs they are a work of art  
I love that girl with all my heart  
And I don't give a damn bout the upper part  
'Cause that's how I get my tail

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