

# Albatross

Judy Collins

The lady comes to the gate  
Dressed in lavender and leather  
Looking North to the sea  
She finds the weather fine She hears the steeple bells  
Ringing through the orchard all the way from town  
She watches seagulls fly  
Silver on the ocean stitching through the waves  
The edges of the sky Many people wander up the hills from all around you  
Making up your memories and thinking they have found you  
They cover you with veils of wonder as if you were a bride  
Young men holding violets are curious to know if you have cried  
And tell you why and ask you why, either way you answer Lace around the collars of the blouses of the ladies  
Flowers from a Spanish friend of the family  
The embroidery of your life holds you in and keeps you out  
But you survive, imprisoned in your bones  
Behind the isinglass windows of your eyes And in the night, the iron wheels rolling through the rain  
Down the hills through the long grass to the sea  
And in the dark, the hard bells ringing with pain  
Come away alone Even now by the gate with your long hair blowing  
And the colors of the day that lie along your arms  
You must barter your life to make sure you are living  
And the crowd that has come, you give them the colors  
And the bells and the wind and the dream Will there never be a prince  
Who rides along the sea and the mountains?  
Scattering the sand and the foam into amethyst fountains  
Riding up the hills from the beach in the long summer grass  
Holding the sun in his hands and shattering the isinglass Day and night and day again and people come and go  
away forever  
While the shining summer sea dances in the glass of your mirror  
While you search the waves for love and your visions for a sign  
The knot of tears around your throat is crystallizing into your design And in the night, the iron wheels rolling  
through the rain  
Down the hills through the long grass to the sea  
And in the dark, the hard bells ringing with pain  
Come away alone, come away alone with me

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