

# Albatross (feat. Rufus Wainwright)

## 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 skyMany 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

Any way you answerLace around the collars of the blouses of the ladies

    Flowers from a Spanish friend of the family

    The embroid'ry of your life holds you in

    And keeps you out but you survive

    Imprisoned in your bones

Behind the isinglass windows of your eyesAnd 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 aloneEven now by the gate with you 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 wind and the dreamWill there never be a prince who rides along the sea and the mountains

    Scattering the sand and 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 designAnd 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.

Songwriters  
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