

# Black Diamond Bay

Bob Dylan

Up on the white veranda  
She wears a necktie and a Panama hat  
Her passport shows a face from  
Another time and place  
She looks nothin' like that  
And all the remnants of her recent past  
Are scattered in the wild wind  
She walks across the marble floor  
Where a voice from the gambling room is callin' her to come on in  
She smiles, walks the other way  
As the last ship sails and the moon fades away  
From Black Diamond Bay  
As the mornin' light breaks open, the Greek comes down  
And he asks for a rope and a pen that will write  
"Pardon, monsieur," the desk clerk says  
Carefully removes his fez  
"Am I hearin' you right?"  
And as the yellow fog is liftin'  
The Greek is quickly headin' for the second floor  
She passes him on the spiral staircase  
Thinkin' he's the Soviet Ambassador  
She starts to speak, but he walks away  
As the storm clouds rise and the palm branches sway  
On Black Diamond Bay  
A soldier sits beneath the fan  
Doin' business with a tiny man who sells him a ring  
Lightning strikes, the lights blow out  
The desk clerk wakes and begins to shout  
"Can you see anything?"  
Then the Greek appears on the second floor  
In his bare feet with a rope around his neck  
While a loser in the gambling room lights up a candle  
Says, "Open up another deck"  
But the dealer says, "Attendez-vous, s'il vous plait"  
As the rain beats down and the cranes fly away  
From Black Diamond Bay  
The desk clerk heard the woman laugh  
As he looked around the aftermath and the soldier got tough  
He tried to grab the woman's hand

Said, "Here's a ring, it cost a grand"  
She said, "That ain't enough"  
Then she ran upstairs to pack her bags  
While a horse-drawn taxi waited at the curb  
She passed the door that the Greek had locked  
Where a handwritten sign read, "Do not disturb"  
She knocked upon it anyway  
As the sun went down and the music did play  
On Black Diamond Bay  
I've got to talk to someone quick  
But the Greek said, "Go away" and he kicked the chair to the floor  
He hung there from the chandelier  
She cried, "Help, there's danger near  
Please open up the door!"  
Then the volcano erupted  
And the lava flowed down from the mountain high above  
The soldier and the tiny man were crouched in the corner  
Thinking of forbidden love  
But the desk clerk said, "It happens every day"  
As the stars fell down and the fields burned away  
On Black Diamond Bay  
As the island slowly sank  
The loser finally broke the bank in the gambling room  
The dealer said, "It's too late now  
You can take your money, but I don't know how  
You'll spend it in the tomb"  
The tiny man bit the soldier's ear  
As the floor caved in and the boiler in the basement blew  
While she's out on the balcony, where a stranger tells her  
"My darling, je vous aime beaucoup"  
She sheds a tear and then begins to pray  
As the fire burns on and the smoke drifts away  
From Black Diamond Bay  
I was sittin' home alone one night in L.A.  
Watchin' old Cronkite on the seven o'clock news  
It seems there was an earthquake that  
Left nothin' but a Panama hat  
And a pair of old Greek shoes  
Didn't seem like much was happenin'  
So I turned it off and went to grab another beer  
Seems like every time you turn around  
There's another hard-luck story that you're gonna hear  
And there's really nothin' anyone can say  
And I never did plan to go anyway  
To Black Diamond Bay

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