

The Young Girl Night
by James Vincent Kulis

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If I had known how the water was,
I never would have come.
The waves like frightened kids ride home,
At night to a tired sun.

I left my home in the hollow hills,
To see the world and a whaler's ways.
But I ain't nothin' but a butcher boy
Or a slave on a sailin' sleigh.

We got guys from Portugal,
New Hampshire and Japan,
Venezuela, Chinatown,
It's like the world in a teacup man.

I climbed at night to the nest of the crows
To keep a look out far and wide
And saw that diamond whale spray rise
Like stars in a velvet sky.

The Young Girl Night
She smiled just like a lady does a man
And put the diamond stars like a ring
On the finger of her hand.

Should I cry out alert the crew
That there's a whale to lower for?
To kill the beast would mean no rings
For the Young Girl Night no more.

"There she blows!" I yelled, they lowered
Quickly it was done.
I breathed a little easier in the morning
When I saw the sun.

I told the crew about the vision
Boldly at midday.
"I think that we have angered something
That was angry anyway."

Crew:

“Why did you not hold your tongue
And let the whale fish live?
To spout bright diamonds like a groom
His bride the night to give?”

Sailor:

“T’was you who killed it!”

Crew:

“You who called it!”
They cast me in a raft.
On purple heels the evening slipped away.
“Good night!” they laughed.

Seabird sun do wait for me,
The darkness coming on
Before the Young Girl Night finds out
What I have done.

I did not mean to kill the thing,
The one thing that she loved.
I swear by the deep blue sea
And the sky above.

Up rose the wind like a lullaby.
Up rose the stars in the sky.
Up rose the wind like a lullaby.
Waves flowed like tears passing by.

The Young Girl Night:

“I wonder,” she asked,
“Have you been here long?”
“I wonder,” she asked,
“Have you seen?”
“I wonder,” she asked,
“Could you tell me please,
A whale spoutin’ stars from the sea?”

Sailor (aside):

“She don’t know what she ain’t seen
I could tell her anything.
I could lie about the ship, the crow’s nest,
Everything.”

The Young Girl Night:

“I fear that he may have come to harm,
There’s whalin’ ships on the sea.
I fear that he may have come to harm,
Could you tell me where he may be?”

Sailor (aside):

“Should I confess what I have done,
Or hope to reach the light?
A simple sailor prey to fool
The mourning velvet night.”

The Young Girl Night:

“What would you do then with such a one?
What would you do with one who?
What would you do then with such a one,
As took your true love from you?”

Sailor:

“Surely My Lady I’d see him drown.
Wherever that sailor might be.
Surely My Lady I’d see him drown,
Who’s cry took my true love from me.

No diamonds no more to grace my hand.
No gifts for a groom’s bride to be.
No one to wait with the lonely night.
I’d kill who had took that from me.”

The Young Girl Night:

“It was you who made the cry,
The ‘thar she blows’ they sing.

The Young Girl Night sees sailors,
Ship, the crow's nest, everything.

By your own sentence doomed to death
One thing I ask of you,
Do you have a true love back on shore
Who waits for you?"

The sailor cowered,
Doomed to death
And sorry for his sin.
He thought of her away on shore
Awaitin' there for him.

The sailor cowered
Feared to speak
The Girl Night spoke instead,
"I have heard her prayer this night,
That you were back in bed.

I shall not hurt her
Shall not have my vengeance and my wrath.
I shall see you safe to shore
This night upon your raft.

The sea bird sun shall wait for you.
The dark night let you go.
To live on shore in happiness
That I will never know.

You did not mean to kill my love
Whose stars rose from the sea.
And I shall not take from your love
The love you took from me."

END