

The Thousand Good Songs

2022

This songbook belongs to



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1 *Charlie on the M.T.A.*

Well, let me tell you of the story of a man
named Charley on a tragic and fateful day

He put ten cents in his pocket, kissed his wife
and family, went to ride on the M.T.A.

Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned
and his fate is still unknown

(What a pity! Poor ole Charlie. Shame and
scandal. He may ride forever. Just like Paul Revere)

He may ride forever 'neath the streets of
Boston. He's the man who never returned

Charlie handed in his dime at the Kendall
Square Station and he changed for Jamaica Plain

When he got there the conductor told him, "One
more nickel." Charlie couldn't get off of that train

Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned
and his fate is still unknown

(What a pity! Poor ole Charlie. Shame and
scandal. He may ride forever. Just like Paul Revere)

He may ride forever 'neath the streets of
Boston. He's the man who never returned

Now, all night long Charlie rides through the
station, crying, "What will become of me?!"

How can I afford to see my sister in Chelsea or
my cousin in Roxbury?"

Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned
and his fate is still unknown

(What a pity! Poor ole Charlie. Shame and
scandal. He may ride forever. Just like Paul Revere)

He may ride forever 'neath the streets of
Boston. He's the man who never returned

Charlie's wife goes down to the Sculley Square
Station every day at quarter past two

And through the open window she hands
Charlie a sandwich as the train comes rumblin'
through

Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned
and his fate is still unknown

(What a pity! Poor ole Charlie. Shame and
scandal. He may ride forever. Just like Paul Revere)

He may ride forever 'neath the streets of
Boston. He's the man who never returned

Now, you citizens of Boston, don't you think it's
a scandal how the people have to pay and pay?

Fight the fare increase! Vote for George
O'Brien! Get poor Charlie off the M.T.A.

Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned
and his fate is still unknown

(What a pity! Poor ole Charlie. Shame and
scandal. He may ride forever. Just like Paul Revere)

He may ride forever 'neath the streets of
Boston. He's the man who never returned

He's the man who never returned. He's the man
who never returned

E tu, Charlie?

2 *St. Brendans Fair Isle*

When (D) I was a lad on the (G) Emerald (D)
Isle

I (Bm) heard many stories both (D) lovely and
(Bm) wild

(D) About the great dragons and (G) monsters
that (D) be

That (Bm) swallow the ships when they (D) sail
on the (Bm) sea

Though (G) I was an artist with canvas and
paint

I sailed with St. Brendan and his jolly (D)
saints

We (G) told the good people goodbye for a
while

(Chorus) We (D) sailed for (A) St. Brendan's
(D) fair isle, fair (G) isle

We sailed for St. (A) Brendan's fair (D) isle

We'd been on the ocean for 94 days

When we came to a spot where the sea was
ablaze

Those demons from Hades were dancing with
glee

And burning the sailors alive on the sea

St. Brendan he walked on the blistering waves

He threw all those demons right back to their
caves

And all of the saints wore a heavenly smile

(Chorus)

One night while the brethren were lying asleep

A great dragon came up from under the deep

He thundered and light'nend and made a great
din

He awakened St. Brendan and all of his men

The dragon came on with his mouth open wide

We threw in a cross and the great dragon died

We skinned him and cooked him and feasted a
while

(Chorus)

At last we came onto that beautiful land

We all went ashore and we walked on the sand

We took our longbows and we killed us a boo

We roasted it up and had hot barbecue

And after a while we were singing this song

We noticed the island was moving along

We ate and we drank and we rolled in great

style

(Chorus)

St. Brendan said "Boys, this is much to my wish

"To ride on the back of the world's biggest fish

"Hold on to the line that is pullin' the ship

"We'll need it some day if this fish takes a dip."

We sailed every ocean, we sailed every sea

We sailed every spot that a sailor could be

In 44 days we sailed 10 million miles

(Chorus)

3 *Finnegans Wake*

(D) Tim Finnegan lived in (Bm) Wattling Street
A (G) gentle Irishman (A) mighty odd
He'd a (D) beautiful brogue so (Bm) rich and
sweet
To (G) rise in the world he (A) carried a (D)
hod
(D) See he'd sort of a (Bm) tripling way
With (D) love for a liquor poor (Bm) Tim was
born
To (D) help him on with his (Bm) work each
day
He'd a (G) drop of the Craythor (A) every (D)
morn'
[Chorus] And (D) whack Fol-De-Dah now (Bm)
dance to your partner
(G) Round the floor, your (A) trotters shake
(D) Wasn't it the (Bm) truth I told you
(G) Lots of fun at (A) Finnegan's (D) wake
One morning Tim was rather full
His head felt heavy, which made him shake
Fell from the ladder and broke his skull
So they carried him home, his corpse to wake
Rolled him up in a nice clean sheet
And laided him upon the bed
A bottle of whiskey at his feet
And a gallon of porter at his head
[Chorus]
His friends assembled at his wake
And Missus Finnegan called for lunch
First they brought in tay and cake
Then pipes, tobacco and whiskey punch
Biddy O'Brien begged to cry
Such a nice clean corpse did you see
Aye, Tim me boy, oh why did you die?
Arrah shut your gob said Paddy MCGee
[Chorus]
Then Peggy O'Connor took up the job
Biddy says she you're wrong I'm sure
Biddy then gave her a belt on the gob
And left her sprawling on the floor

There the war did soon engage
Woman to woman and man to man
Shillelah-law was all the rage
An a row and a ruction soon began
[Chorus]
Mickey Maloney raised his head
When a bottle Of whiskey flew at him
It missed him falling on the bed
The liquor scattered over Tim
Tim revives, see how he rises
Timothy rising from the bed
Whirl your whiskey around like blazes?
Tonamondeal, do you think I'm dead!?
[Chorus 2x]

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Isle

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(D) About the great dragons and (G) monsters
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5 EILEEN AROON

I (D) know a valley fair, Ei-(G)-leen A-(D)-roon
I (D) know a cottage there, Ei-(G)-leen
A-(D)-roon
(D) Far in the (G) valley shade (D) I know a
(A) tender maid
(D) Flow'r of the (A) hazel (D) glade, (G)
Ei-(A)-leen (D) Aroon
Who in the song so sweet, Eileen Aroon
Who in the dance so fleet, Eileen Aroon
Dear are her charms to me, dearer her laughter
free
Dearest her constancy, Eileen Aroon
Were she no longer true, Eileen Aroon
What would her lover do, Eileen Aroon
Fly with a broken chain, far o'er the sounding
main
Never to love again, Eileen Aroon
Youth will in time decay, Eileen Aroon
Beauty must fade away, Eileen Aroon
Castles are sacked in war, chieftains are
scattered far
Truth is a fixed star, Eileen Aroon
(G) (D) (G) (D) (G)-(A) (D)
Eileen Aroon, Eileen Aroon, Eileen Aroon

6 Dooley

Dooley was a good old man
He lived below the mill
Dooley had two daughters and a forty gallon
still
One gal watched the boiler the other watched
the spout
Mama corked the bottles when old Dooley
fetched them out
(Chorus) Dooley, slipping up the holler
Dooley, trying to make a dollar
Dooley, give me a swaller and Ill pay you back
some day
The revenueurs came for him a slipping through
the woods
Dooley kept behind them all and never lost his
goods
Dooley was a trader when into town hed come
Sugar by the bushel and molasses by the ton
(Chorus)
I remember very well the day old Dooley died
The women folk looked sorry and the men stood
round and cried
Now Dooleys on the mountain he lies there all
alone
They put a jug beside him and a barrel for a
stone
(Chorus)

7 *Annie Laurie*

(G) Maxwellton braes are (C) bonnie,
(G) Where early fa's the (D) dew,
And 'twas (G) there that Annie (C) Laurie
Gave (G) me her (D) promise (G) true.
Gave me her (D7) promise (G) true,
Which ne'er (D7) forgot will (G) be,
And for (C) bonnie Annie (G) Laurie,
I lay me (D) doon and (G) dee.
Her brow is like the snowdrift,
Her neck is like a swan,
Her face it is the fairest
That e'er the sun shone on.
That e'er the sun shone on,
And dark blue is her ee,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I lay me doon and dee.
Like dew on th' gowan lying,
Is the fa' o' her fairy feet,
And like winds in summer sighing
Her voice is low and sweet.
Her voice is low and sweet,
And she's a' the world to me,
And for bonnie Annie Laurie,
I lay me doon and dee.

8 *Carrickfergus*

(G) I wish I (Am) was (D) in Carrick(G)fergus
Only for (Am) nights (D) in Bally(G)grand
I would swim (Am) over (D) the deepest (G)
ocean
Only for (Am) nights (D) in Bally(G)grand
But the sea is (Em) wide and I cannot swim
(D) over
And neither have (Em) I the (Am) wings to (D)
fly
(G) I wish I (Am) had (D) a handsome (G)
boatsman
To ferry me (Am) over (D) my love and I (G)
My childhood days bring back sad reflections
Of happy times there spent so long ago
My boyhood friends and my own relations
Have all past on now with the melting snow
So I'll spend my days in this endless roving
Soft is the grass, my bed is free
Oh to be home now in carrickfergus
On the long rode down to the salty sea
Now in Kilkenny it is reported
On marble stone there as black as ink
With gold and silver I would support her
But I'll sing no more now til I get a drink
Cause I'm drunk today and I'm seldom sober
A handsome rover from town to town
Ah but I'm sick now my days are numbered
Come all me young lads and lay me down.

9 *Auld Lang Syne*

Should (C) auld acquaintance (G) be forgot,
And (Am) never brought to (F) mind
Should (C) auld acquaintance (G) be forgot,
And (F) auld (G) lang (C) syne!
(Chorus) For (C) auld lang (G) syne, my dear
For (Am) auld lang (F) syne,
We'll (C) take a cup o' (G) kindness yet
For (F) auld (G) lang (C) syne!
And surely ye 'll be your pint' stowp,
And surely I 'll be mine,
And we 'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne!
(Chorus)
We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine,
But we 've wander'd monie a weary fit
Sin' auld lang syne.
(Chorus)
We twa hae paidl'd in the burn
Frae morning sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.
(Chorus)
And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,
And gie 's a hand o' thine,
And we 'll tak a right guid-willie waught
For auld lang syne!

10 *BLACK AND TANS*

I was (Bm) born in the Dublin street
Where the (A) loyal drums do beat,
And the (Bm) loving English feet walked all
over us;
And (D) every single night when me (A) dad
would come home tight,
He'd (Bm) invite the neighbours (A) out with
this (Bm) chorus:
[Chorus] Come (Bm) out you black and tans,
Come out and (A) fight me like a man,

Show your (Bm) wife how you won medals
down in Flanders;
Tell her (D) how the IRA made you (A) run like
hell away,
From the (Bm) green and lovely (A) lanes of
(Bm) Killeshandra.
Come tell us how you slew
Them ol' Arabs two by two,
Like the Zulus they had knives and bows and
arrows;
Of how bravely you faced one with your
sixteen-pounder gun,
And you frightened all the natives to the
marrow.
(Chorus)
Come let us hear you tell
How you slammed the brave Parnell,
And taught him well and truly persecuted;
Where are the stares and jeers that you proudly
let us hear,
When our heroes of sixteen were executed.
(Chorus)
Oh! Come out you British Huns,
Come out and fight without your guns,
Show your wife how you won medals up in
Derry;
You murdered sixteen men and you'll do the
same again,
So get out of here and take your bloody army.
(Chorus)
The day is coming fast
And the time is here at last,
When each yeoman will be cast aside before us,
And if there be a need
Sure my kids wil sing, "Godspeed!"
With a verse or two of Steven Beehan's chorus.
(Chorus)

11 *The Black Velvet Band*

In a (D) neat little town they called Belfast
Apprentice to trade I was (A) bound
And (D) many an hour sweet (Bm) happiness
Have I (G) spent in that (A) neat little (D)
town
As (D) sad misfortune came over me
Which caused me to stray from the (A) land
Far (D) away from me friends and (Bm)
relations
(G) Betrayed by the (A) black velvet (D) band
Her (D) eyes they shown like diamonds
I thought her the queen of the (A) land (And
she was!)
And her (D) hair, it hung over her (Bm)
shoulder
Tied (G) up with a (A) black velvet (D) band
I took a stroll down broadway
Meaning not long for to stay
When who should I meet but this pretty fair
maid
Come a-traipsing along the highway
She was both fair and handsome
Her neck, it was just like a swan
And her hair, it hung over her shoulder
Tied up with a black velvet band
(Chorus)
I took a stroll with this pretty fair maid
And a gentleman passing us by
Well, I knew she meant the doing of him
By the look in her roguish black eye
A gold watch she took from his pocket
And placed it right into my hand
And the very first thing that I said, was
Bad 'cess to the black velvet band
(Chorus)
Before the judge and the jury
Next morning, I had to appear
The judge, he says to me:
"Young man, you're case it is proven clear
Seven long years penal servitude

To be spent far away from the land
Far away from your friends and relations
Betrayed by the black velvet band"
(Chorus)
So come all you jolly young fellows
A warning take by me
When you are out on the town, me lads
Beware of the pretty colleens
They'll feed you with strong drink (Oh yeah!)
'Till you are unable to stand
And the very first thing that you'll know is
You've landed in Van Diemens Land
(Chorus)

12 *Fields of Athenry*

By a (D) lonely prison wall, I (G) heard a
young girl (D) call-(A)-ing
(D) Michael, they have (G) taken you (A) away,
For you (D) stole Trevelyan's (G) corn,
So the (D) young might see the (A) morn
Now a (Em) prison ship lies (A) waiting in the
(D) bay
[Chorus] (D) Low (G) lie the (D) fields of
Athen-(Bm)-ry
Where (D) once we watched the (*Bm) small
free birds (A) fly
Our (D) love was on the (G) wing
We had (D) dreams and songs to (A) sing
It's so (Em) lonely round the (A) fields of
Athen-(D)-ry
By a lonely prison wall, I heard a young man
calling
Nothing matters, Mary, when you're free
Against the famine and the crown,
I rebelled, they cut me down
Now you must raise our child with dignity
[Chorus]
By a lonely harbor wall, she watched the last
star fall
As the prison ship sailed out against the sky
For she lived to hope and pray for her love in
Botany Bay
It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry
[Chorus]

13 *Edelweiss (Richard Rogers)*

(G) Edelweiss (D), (G) Edelweiss (C)
(G) Every (Em) morning you (Am7) greet (D7)
me
(G) Small and (D) white, (G) clean and (C)
bright
(G) You look (D) happy to (G) meet me.
(D) Blossom of snow may you (G) bloom and
grow
(C) Bloom and (Am7) grow (D) forever (D7)
Edelweiss, Edelweiss
Bless my homeland forever
(Repeat 2nd verse, then repeat entirely)
