

# The Maiden And The Selkie

Heather Dale

Once a fair and handsome Seal Lord  
Lay his foot upon the sand  
For to woo the fisher's daughter  
And to claim her marriage hand

I have come in from the ocean  
I have come in from the sea  
And I'll not go to the waves, love  
Lest ye come along with me

Lord, long have I loved you  
As a Selkie on the foam  
I would gladly go and wed ye  
And be lady of your home

But I cannot go into the ocean  
I cannot go into the sea  
I would drown beneath the waves, love  
If I went along with thee

Lady, long have I loved you  
I would have you for my wife  
I will stay upon your shoreland  
Though it robs me of my life

I will stay one night beside you  
Never go back to the sea  
I will stay and be thy husband  
Though it be the death of me

Lord, I cannot go and wed thee  
All to watch my lover die  
Since I'll not be left a widow  
I have a plan for us to try

Let us speak with my grandmother  
Who has ever dwelt beside the sea  
She may know some trick or treasure  
That I may wed my fair Selkie

So they've gone to her grandmother's  
Little cottage by the sea  
To inquire how a maiden  
Can be wed to her Selkie

For the Selkie's watery kingdom  
Would surely rob her of her breath  
But to stay on land past midnight  
It would surely be his death

Lord, I know not how to aid you  
You may never live on shore  
For your kind to live till dawning  
It has never been seen before

But my mother had a seal coat  
That she buried beneath the tree

And she told me that its wearer  
Would become a fair Selkie

So they've journeyed farther inland  
Though the Seal Lord's getting weak  
And she's shouldering the shovel  
To unearth the thing they seek

At the rising of the fullmoon  
Underneath the elfen oak  
She has unearthed that faery treasure  
Of which her grandmother spoke

Just before the stroke of midnight  
They have made it back to sea  
And she has donned the magic seal coat  
And become a maid Selkie

Now they've gone into the ocean  
Hand in hand into the sea  
She has gone along  
A fair seal bride for a Selkie