

# Albatross

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 sky

Many 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 answer

Lace 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 eyes

And 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

Even 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 dream

Will 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 design

And 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.