

Greenland Ghost

Well me name is Michael Shaw and I'm a sailor
Although it's many years since I have seen the ocean waves
I've done many things and most have been a failure
But the sea will always follow me, and take to me grave
When I was a lad me father left me mother
And ran off with a docker's wife he met one Eastertide
And me mother sighed - and never took another
But cried herself to sleep at night, a bottle by her side

Chorus

*I've seen places other men can only dream of
And cursed my very living when it took me back to sea
There are better ways of life than of a sailors'
But the Good Lord had decided it's the only one for me.*

I resolved to go to sea and earn a living
I'd brothers and I'd sisters not a scrap of food between
And me Mother was so grateful for the giving
That kept her from the workhouse where she went when times were lean
I had nothing but the clothes that I stood up in
When at 14 years of age I joined the Hamlyn Company
And someone up in Heaven had been watching
'Cos he sent a guardian angel to protect me on the sea

Chorus

Well our Captain he was fair and was forgiving
He wouldn't stand for idlers and he kept an honest crew
If you worked hard then he saw you earned a living
He was more than any father, least of all the one I knew
He captained many trawlers on the Humber
He stood on watch so long I swear he kept those storms at bay
Fished Arctic grounds too many times to number
Searching for the mighty cod, so we could earn our pay

Chorus

Well I've sailed with stormy bastards up in Iceland
And cast the nets in oceans that have swept good men away
I have danced with death and icebergs up in Greenland
Clung to life and limb and prayed I'd live to spend me pay
And looking back I know God was a sailor
Pulling down the hatches when the mighty gales did blow,
He never was the type to ever fail yer
And when we meet in Heaven I'll be sure to let Him know

Chorus