

The Mary Ellen Carter

by Stan Rogers (1979)

G *G/F#* *C* *G*
She went down last October in a pouring driving rain.
Am *Am* *C* *D*
The skipper, he'd been drinking and the Mate, he felt no pain.
G *G/F#* *C* *G*
Too close to Three Mile Rock, and she was dealt her mortal blow,
Am *Am* *D* *D*
And the Mary Ellen Carter settled low.

There were five of us aboard her when she finally was awash.
We'd worked like hell to save her, all heedless of the cost.
And the groan she gave as she went down, it caused us to proclaim
Am *D* *G* *G*
That the Mary Ellen Carter would rise again.

Well, the owners wrote her off; not a nickel would they spend.
She gave twenty years of service, boys, then met her sorry end.
But insurance paid the loss to us, they let her rest below.
Am *Am* *D* *D*
Then they laughed at us and said we had to go.

But we talked of her all winter, some days around the clock,
She's worth a quarter million, afloat and at the dock.
And with every jar that hit the bar, we swore we would remain
Am *D* *G* *G*
And make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

Am *D* *G*($\frac{1}{2}$) *G/F#*($\frac{1}{2}$) *Em*
Rise again, rise again,
C *C* *G* *D*
that her name not be lost to the knowledge of men.
G *G/F#* *C*($\frac{1}{2}$) *D*($\frac{1}{2}$) *G*
Those who loved her best and were with her 'till the end
C *C* *D* *D*
Will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

All spring, now, we've been with her on a barge lent by a friend.
Three dives a day in hard hat suit and twice I've had the bends.
Thank God it's only sixty feet and the currents here are slow

Am Am D D

Or I'd never have the strength to go below.

But we've patched her rents, stopped her vents, dogged hatch and porthole
down.

Put cables to her, 'fore and aft and birded her around.

Tomorrow, noon, we hit the air and then take up the strain.

Am D G G

And watch the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

Am D G(½) G/F#(½) Em
Rise again, rise again,

C C G D
that her name not be lost to the knowledge of men.

G G/F# C(½) D(½) G
Those who loved her best and were with her 'till the end

C C D D
Will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again.

For we couldn't leave her there, you see, to crumble into scale.

She'd saved our lives so many times, living through the gale

And the laughing, drunken rats who left her to a sorry grave

Am Am D D

They won't be laughing in another day

And you, to whom adversity has dealt the final blow

With smiling bastards lying to you everywhere you go

Turn to, and put out all your strength of arm and heart and brain

Am D G G

And like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again.

Rise again, rise again

Though your heart it be broken and life about to end

No matter what you've lost, be it a home, a love, a friend.

Like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again.