

The Man at the Nore

Now me [C] father was the keeper of the [G] Eddystone light,
And he [D7] married a mermaid [G] one fine night.
From this [F] union [C] there came [F] three:
[C] Two of 'em was [F] fishes and the [C] other -- [G] was -- [C] me.

Now when I was but a [G] bit of a slip
I was [D7] put in charge of the [G] Nore lightship.
I kept my [F] lamps in [C] very fine [F] style
[C] Doing all the [F] work ac-[C] cording -- [G] to -- [C] Hoyle.

{chorus} Oh, the [G] raging Nore, the [C] rolling Nore,
The [G] waves they tumble [C] o'er and o'er.
There's [G] no such a life to be [C] had on [F] shore
As the [C] one that's [F] led by the
[C] Man -- [G] at -- the [C] Nore!

Well, one evening as I was a-[G] trimmin' of the glim*,
[D7] Singing a verse from the [G] Evening Hymn,
I spied by the [F] light of me [C] signal [F] lamp
The [C] form of me [F] mother looking [C] aw-[G] fully [C] damp.

Just then a voice cried [G] out, "Ahoy!"
And [D7] there she was just a-[G] sitting on a buoy.
(That's meaning a [F] buoy for the [C] ships that [F] sail,
And [C] not a [F] boy that's a [C] juve-[G] nile [C] male.)

{chorus} Oh, the [G] raging Nore, the [C] rolling Nore,
The [G] waves they tumble [C] o'er and o'er.
There's [G] no such a life to be [C] had on [F] shore
As the [C] one that's [F] led by the
[C] Man -- [G] at -- the [C] Nore!

Says I to me mother, "Now [G] how do you do,
And [D7] how's me father and me [G] sisters two?"
Says she, "It's an [F] orph-i-[C] an you [F] are,
You've [C] only one [F] sister and you've [C] got [G] no [C] pa.

"Your father was drowned with sev-[G] er-i-al pals
And di-[D7] gested by the [G] cannibals.
Of your sisters, [F] one was [C] cooked in a [F] dish,
The [C] other one is [F] kept as a [C] talk-[G] ing [C] fish."

{chorus} Oh, the [G] raging Nore, the [C] rolling Nore,
The [G] waves they tumble [C] o'er and o'er.
There's [G] no such a life to be [C] had on [F] shore
As the [C] one that's [F] led by the
[C] Man -- [G] at -- the [C] Nore!

Well, at that I wept like a [G] soft-eyed scamp.
My [D7] tears, they made the [G] waters damp.
Says I to me [F] mother, "Won't you [C] step with-[F] in,
You [C] look so [F] wet, just to [C] dry [G] your [C] skin."

Says she, "I likes the [G] wet, me dear."
Says [D7] I, "Let me offer you the [G] cabin chair."
Me mother, she [F] looks at [C] me with a [F] frown:
"It's [C] owing to me [F] nature that I [C] cahn't [G] sit [C] down."

{chorus} Oh, the [G] raging Nore, the [C] rolling Nore,
The [G] waves they tumble [C] o'er and o'er.
There's [G] no such a life to be [C] had on [F] shore
As the [C] one that's [F] led by the
[C] Man -- [G] at -- the [C] Nore!

Says me mother, "Now never you [G] go on shore,
But [D7] always remain the [G] Man at the Nore."
With that, I [F] caught a [C] glittering [F] scale,
And [C] that was the [F] end of me [C] mo-[G] ther's [C] tale. (tail.)

Now in deference to this ma-[G] ternal wish
I [D7] cahn't visit me sister, the [G] talking fish.
So if ya [F] sees her when you [C] gets on [F] shore,
[C] Give her the re-[F] gards of the [C] Man [G] at the [C] Nore!

{chorus} Oh, the [G] raging Nore, the [C] rolling Nore,
The [G] waves they tumble [C] o'er and o'er.
There's [G] no such a life to be [C] had on [F] shore
As the [C] one that's [F] led by the
[C] Man -- [G] at -- the [C] Nore!

* an oil lamp, according to www.seatalk.info (online nautical dictionary)