

THE MAGDALEN GREEN

Scottish Folk Singer / Songs & Ballads of Dundee

Tom sings this Dundee love song, originally from the Poet's Box and very popular in NE Scotland. There are a number of different tunes, but the words have remained fairly close to the original.

I am a brisk young sailor lad, jist newly come fae sea
My ship she lies at anchor in the harbour o' Dundee
Young Betsy wis the fairest lass that iver I hid seen
and I asked her if she'd taak a waak doon by the Magdalen Green

Wi a roguish smile upon her face she's answered me and said
Tae taak a waak wi you young man I wid surely be afraid
The roads they are sae slippery and the nicht sae cauld and keen
And it widna dae for me tae faa doon by the Magdalen Green

But wi my flattering words and promises the lassie has gaen consent
We wandered here an wandered there on love and pleasure bent
An mony's the day an nicht we roamed aroon that pleasant scene
An that bonnie lass hid muny's a faa doon by the Magdalen Green

But seen the time for pairtin came an I returned tae sea
I left my bonny Betsy standin weepin on the quay
I've bade fareweel tae Dundee toon faar happy we hid been
And she wis left tae waak her lain doon by the Magdalen Green

One nicht as I lay slumberin, my weary watch wis done
I dreamt I wis the father o a darling little son
An Betsy she wis in my dream sae lovely tae be seen
But she wis weeping bitterly doon by the Magdalen Green

Sae faan my ship pits in again tae the harbour o Dundee
I'll search the toon aa up an doon, my bonnie lass tae see
I'll ask her tae forgive me for the rascal I hae been
An we will maak it up again doon by the Magdalen Green

Aye, and we will maak it up again doon by the Magdalen Green

aa = all
dae = do
faa = fall
faan = when
faar = where
fae = from
jist = just
maak = make
sae = so
seen = soon
taak = take
waak = walk
waak her lain = walk by herself
wid = would
widna = would not