

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## The Boatsman and the Tailor

The Boatsman and the Tailor

It was an old boatsman down in Dover he did dwell  
And he had a little wife and he loved her so well  
But when the old boatsman he got out of the way  
His frolicsome young wife with some tailor she would lay

cho: To my rally dally da do rally dally day

Now she was a walking down through the street  
This pretty little tailor she chanced for to meet  
Saying my husband's gone on board with the rest of his crew  
And now this very night I will lie along with you

Then straight away home this couple they did go  
A kissing and courting and loving also  
But they hadn't been to bed about an hour by the clock  
Before the old boatsman at the door he did knock

Now you get into my husband's chest and there you lie still  
And then you'll be so safe as any mouse in the mill  
And then she went downstairs for to let her husband in  
And there stood the boatsman with three of his men

Now what has brought you here so late in the night  
You've put the little tailor in a terrible fright  
Why I have not a come to rob you nor disturb you of your rest  
But since I have come here I must have my chest

Now these three able fellows being so stout and strong  
They took up the chest and carried it along  
But they hadn't carried the chest but a mile outside the town  
Before the heft of the chest made the sweatings to run down

Says one to the other let us sit down and rest  
Says one to the other why the devil's in the chest  
Says one to the other I heard something knock  
Then up jumps the old boatsman and his chest he did unlock

Now the chest he did unlock and was greatly surprised  
To see the little tailor all rubbing of his eyes  
Saying , "Hullo my little fellow and how came you here  
Well you cuckolded me ever this last seven year."

Now I'll press you to the seas and a slave thou shalt be  
And if I don't sweat thee there the devil shall sweat me  
Now I'll press you to the seas and a slave thou shalt be  
Thou shalt never stay at home to make a cuckold of me.

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