

Dear Old Skibbereen

Am G Am G F Am
Oh father dear I oft-times hear you talk of Erin's Isle
C Am G Am C Am
Her lofty scene and valley green, her mountains rude and wild
C Am G Am C Am
They say it is a pretty place where- in a prince might dwell
G Am G F Am
Then why did you abandon it? The reason to me tell.

My son I loved our native land with energy and pride
Until a blight came on the land and sheep and cattle died,
The rent and taxes were to pay, I could not them redeem,
And that's the cruel reason why I left old Skibbereen

It's well I do remember that bleak December day,
The landlord and the sheriff came to drive us all away;
They set the roof on fire with their demon yellow spleen,
And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen.

It's well I do remember the year of forty-eight
When I arose with Erin's boys to fight against the fate,
I was hunted through the mountains for a traitor to the Queen
And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen.

Oh father dear, the day will come when vengeance loud will call,
And we will rise with Erin's boys and rally one and all,
I'll be the man to lead the van beneath our flag of green,
And loud and high we'll raise the cry: 'Revenge for Skibbereen'.