

Maggie May

V2 7th Feb 2016

1/2

Traditional 1830's song from Liverpool. (Not the Rod Stewart hit) The familiar tale of a prostitute who steals a gullible sailor's possessions – but here she gets caught & transported to Australia. Popular with skiffle groups in the 1950s, including The Quarrymen (the Beatles)

Ukes & one Banjolele

Intro – strum C with 2/3rd fret run up on C string

Verse 1

C G7 C

Now gather round you sailor boys, and listen to my plea

G7

And when you've heard my tale you'll pity me

C C7 F D7

For I was a real damned fool in the port of Liverpool

G7 C

The first time that I came home from the sea

Verse 2

F C

I was paid off at the Home, from a voyage to Sierra Leone

G7

Two pounds ten and sixpence was my pay

C C7 F D7

When I drew the tin I grinned, but I very soon got skinned

C G7 C

By a girl by the name of Maggie May.

Chorus

F C

Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they have taken her away;

G7

And she'll never walk down Lime Street any more;

C C7 F D7

For she robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler -

C D7 G7 C

That dirty, no-good, robbing Maggie May.

Verse 3

F C

I shan't forget the day when I first met Maggie May:

G7

She was cruising up and down on Canning Place,

C C7 F D7
 With a figure so divine, like a frigate of the line,
 C G7 C
 So, being a sailor boy, I gave chase.

Verse 4

F C
 Next day I woke in bed, with a sore and aching head,
 G7
 No shoes, or shirt, or trousers could I find.
 C C7 F D7
 I asked her where they were, and she answered, "My dear sir,
 C G7 C
 They're down in Kelly's knock-shop, number nine."

Chorus

F C
 Oh, Maggie, Maggie May, they have taken her away;
 G7
 And she'll never walk down Lime Street any more;
 C C7 F D7
 For she robbed so many a sailor, and skinned so many a whaler -
 C D7 G7 C
 That dirty, no-good, robbing Maggie May.

Verse 5

F C
 Oh, you thieving Maggie May, you robbed me of my pay
 G7
 When I slept with you last night ashore;
 C C7 F D7
 And the judge he guilty found her of robbing a homeward-bounder,
 C G7 C
 And she'll never roam down Lime Street any more.

2 X Chorus