

# **NEVER TRUST THE SEA**

MY [D] FAMILY ARE [D7] FISHERMEN  
FROM THE [G] NORTHERN COAST OF [D] IRELAND  
IT'S [A] NEVER BEEN AN [Bm] EASY LIFE  
BUT WE [G] KNOW NO [Em] OTHER [A] WAY  
THE [D] SEA IS EVER- [D7] CHANGING -  
SHE CAN [G] LOVE OR SHE CAN [D] HATE YOU  
AND THE [A] ONES YOU LEAVE BE- [Bm] HIND ON SHORE  
CAN [G] ONLY [A] WAIT AND [G] PRAY

MY UNCLE IS THE SKIPPER  
OF A THIRTY-METER TRAWLER  
THE MATE'S MY ELDEST BROTHER  
AND A COUSIN IS THE COOK  
IN THE PLEASANT DAYS OF SUMMER  
THEY GO NORTH AS FAR AS ICELAND  
WITH THE LONG LINES OUT FOR CODFISH  
AND BAIT ON EVERY HOOK

*BUT [A] EVEN ON THE [D] CALMEST DAYS  
WHEN THE [G] SEA IS [A] LIKE A [Bm] MIRROR  
THE [A] FISHERMAN DREADS WHAT HE'LL [Bm] NEVER KNOW  
OF THE [G] OCEAN'S [A] MYSTE- [G] RY:*

*(AFTER VERSE 1)*

*HE [A] FEARS TO HEAR THE [D] PHANTOM WORDS  
OF [G] SAILORS [A] DEAD BE- [Bm] FORE HIM:*

*(AFTER VV 2 & 3)*

*HE [A] KNOWS THE WORDS MY [D] FATHER SPOKE  
BEFORE HE [G] SAILED A- [A] WAY FOR- [Bm] EVER:  
[Em] "EVEN WHEN THE [Bm] SUN SHINES,  
YOU CAN [G] NEVER [A] TRUST THE [D] SEA..."*

THEN TOO SOON COME WINTER DAYS  
WHEN IT'S HARD TO MAKE A LIVING  
- LIVING'S WHAT WE CALL IT,  
THOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT AGREE  
THE DAYS ARE SHORT AND BRUTAL,  
ONE GALE AFTER ANOTHER  
THE BANSHEE RIDES THE WIND  
AND THERE ARE MOUNTAINS IN THE SEA

TOO WELL I DO REMEMBER  
A WINTER OF MY CHILDHOOD  
IT WAS GETTING CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS  
BACK IN NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE  
A BOAT AND SIX GOOD MEN WERE LOST  
OUT SOMEWHERE PAST THE ISLANDS  
THEY SAID ONE OF THEM WAS MY FATHER -  
HIS BOAT WAS NAMED FOR ME

BUT TIME IS FULL OF CHANGES  
THE OLD MEN ALL RETIRING  
COME ASHORE TO TAKE THEIR PENSIONS  
NO MORE TO RISK THEIR LIVES  
THE BOATS ARE STANDING IDLE  
AND THE MEN WHO ONCE WOULD CREW THEM  
ARE SAFE OUT IN AUSTRALIA  
WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR WIVES  
IN THE PUBS THE OLD MEN GATHER  
IN THE BLEAKEST DAYS OF WINTER  
TO WARM THEMSELVES WITH WHISKEY  
AND THE STORIES EACH ONE KNOWS  
THEY SPEAK OF THE ATLANTIC  
LIKE SOME TEMPERAMENTAL LOVER  
NOT ONE OF THEM WILL CURSE IT  
AS HIS LIFE DRAWS TO A CLOSE!