

## Waterman's Kiss

Janie Meneely

*Come all ye fair young mermaids if you'd keep your chastity  
Don't ever kiss a waterman who sails upon the sea  
For kissing leads to trouble and don't I know it well  
But if you doubt, then hear me out, my story I will tell:  
My mother was a mermaid, and my father was a tonger  
He fell into the water and he thought he was a goner  
My ma she ups and saves him, so he kissed her gratefully  
And nine months later, along comes little old me  
His kiss sure packed a whallop and it caught Ma by surprise  
She didn't know what hit her till she looked me in the eyes  
She said if she'd a known what's what she'd a never puckered up  
And she'd have left him swimming there just plain out of luck*

*So twist off the cap, Jack, and let's all have a swig  
Here's to the jolly waterman who's neither prude nor prig  
Here's to the jolly mermaid and to her progeny  
Here's to the fish-eyed baby, a'bouncing on my knee*

*Now Pop he kept his workboat right there on Cabin Creek  
And now and then my ma would take me up to have a peek  
And there I spied a waterman whose charm did so beguile  
I swam along beside his boat to ply my winsome wiles  
"Hey there Sailor, you are so strong and tall  
I wonder if you'd escort me to the mermaids' ball."  
"Mermaids don't have balls," he said, "you are not telling true."  
"Of course we don't," I answered, "that's why we're inviting you."  
To prove to him I was sincere, I found him oysters plenty  
I filled his boot with pirate loot and gold from sunken gentry  
His pockets full of money, why he had no qualms at all  
And said he'd gladly escort me to the mermaids ball*

*So twist off the cap, Jack, and let's all have a swig  
Here's to the jolly waterman who's neither prude nor prig  
Here's to the jolly mermaid and to her progeny  
Here's to the fish-eyed baby, a'bouncing on my knee*

*Now all the other mermaids thought that he was quite the dish  
And they made sure his boat was always full of crabs and fish  
My waterman was grateful and to prove he was no churl  
He'd never miss to give a kiss to every mermaid girl  
Maybe it's the oysters that he gobbled by the score  
Maybe it's the hormones pouring out of every pore  
But what a kiss he gave us all, 'twas really quite the spree  
Now each of us has got a baby bouncing on our knee*

*So twist off the cap, Jack, and let's all have a swig  
Here's to the jolly waterman who's neither prude nor prig  
Here's to the jolly mermaid and to her progeny  
Here's to the fish-eyed baby, a'bouncing on my knee*

*So twist off the cap, Jack, and let's all have a swig  
Here's to the jolly waterman who's neither prude nor prig  
Here's to the jolly mermaid and to her progeny  
And if you see that waterman, give him a kiss for me.*