

Ellie and the Swan

by Janie Meneely (ca. 2009)

Ellie went down to the waterside one morning oh so early
There she spied a single swan amongst the rice and barley
He was so stately in his grace, his feathers white as lilies
Ellie did delight in him, and called to him quite clearly
She fed him from her own right hand and stroked his feathers gently
He laid his head down in her lap, and there they spent the morning
He spoke to her with silent sound, but Ellie heard his query
Though no words did pass between, she understood his meaning

CHORUS:

Oh come and fly away with me, come and fly away with me
Come and fly away with me, he softly did beseech her

My love, you know I cannot fly, though I would follow with you?
Then sweetheart you must build a boat and follow where I lead you
?So Ellie built herself a boat, she made it long and narrow?
With flax and hemp she stitched the sails and dyed them with the yarrow
She held her rudder to the north and sailed beyond the river
Out on the mighty ocean swell, the swan made on to lead her
Far along the coast they went, the swan flew high above her
Till at last they came unto, the frozen Arctic tundra

CHORUS

My love you know it grows so cold, I fear I cannot follow?
He plucked some feathers from his wings and made for her a mantle
My love you know it grows so dark, the evening falls too early?
He caught the moonlight on his wings, and she could see him clearly
And when at last she came to rest, she saw a castle splendid?
A feast was laid upon the boards, with swans all well attended
My swan, my gentle loving swan, where have you gone off to?
My love I'm here beside you now, the prince's voice said softly

CHORUS

So Ellie she did take his hand and took her place beside him
He placed a crown upon her head for she did so delight him
Side by side and share by share they face the winds together
He charmed for her a set of wings, and she became his partner
When winter comes you'll see them now, just beyond the meadow,
The prince of swans and his fair queen, floating down the river
Take a care and let them pass, let them go unhindered?
It's Ellie and her Arctic prince, here to pass the winter.

CHORUS

CHORUS