

# Distant Memories

A collection of Poems

By

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Distant Memories  
Collection of Poems

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**“To Brandon”**

Who reignited the passion which was buried,  
Opened my eyes to another world,  
Inspiring me to write

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## *The Captain, The Ship and The Girlfriend*

From the Celtic Voyager to Granuaile  
From Ireland to Scotland  
From modern to old  
Research vessels they be  
Spent so many days in Hull dock yard  
Sorry looking upon her bricks  
Only to be moved to dry dock  
What a sorry sight you are  
With a soon to retire Captain at your helm  
Now the First Officer in command  
Raising to the challenge  
Now having earned his Captains Stripes  
With a restless spirit  
Pulled with the calling from the Ocean  
Sea Trials commencing soon  
Now that she's received the tender loving care  
One night on shore leave  
The new Captain meets his own Irish Colleen  
Smitten with the Raven haired beauty  
Girlfriend she soon becomes  
With the arrival of Cryptic orders  
Read and deciphered  
Girlfriend now meets the other woman  
Leaving her heart broken on the quay  
The ship his first woman  
Would the new girl friend play second fiddle  
All the girls said no, except for this one  
She understood his passion  
And loved him for who he is  
In response, he slipped on the Claddagh Ring  
Promising to return to wed his Irish Bride

## *The Chief of Officers*

There once was a boy from Ireland  
Who be just a simple country bumpkin  
Who had a fascination with the sea  
And wanted to sail her oceans  
And wanted to become an Officer  
Off to Nautical College he went  
applied himself to his studies  
Learned his craft, Earned his stripes  
Rose his way through the Ranks  
To become Chief Of Officers  
Now his eyes are firmly fixed  
Upon the next level  
To kneel before the alter  
Of the BoT  
Now Captain you are  
Of a fine sea faring Cruise Liner

## *M'Lady's Iced Heart*

One misty afternoon M'Lord boards his ship  
With the Spirit of the Seas calling  
M'Lord makes sail  
Along with his Lady's heart  
Now heartbroken, she stands on the quayside.  
In time her empty heart turns to stone  
A powerful witch is sort out  
Who hexes, vexes and curses him  
Additionally, the mermaids and the Selkies  
Enchanted his heart  
With a possessed heart  
He gazes upon her photograph  
Realising his mistake  
Turns the ship around, only to cause an angry storm,  
land is now impossible.  
With a heavy heart  
M'Lord follows his orders  
Weeks turn into months  
Upon M'Lady's photo  
he continues to gaze  
Great sadness now seen upon his face and in his heart,  
M'lady appears in a vision,  
M'Lord's face and heart soared,  
land ahoy and shore leave granted.  
Only to find M'Lady with a heart of Ice  
"Melt the Ice Queen" the wind whispered,  
Taking her into his arms  
M'Lord muttered terms of endearment,  
And how he had missed her  
Before long tears became visible in her eyes,  
Slowly, they fell upon her heart  
restoring her broken heart  
he would never break her heart again  
would always return her heart  
upon his return from the seas

## ***My Sailor's Sailed Away***

Wishing, waiting and hoping  
For a glimmer of hope  
Even if you're in strange lands  
Missing those tales of the seas  
So tell me, Mon Capitaine  
When do you sail back to port.  
If your ship is lost  
Whether in the North West Passage  
Or even in the Devil's Triangle  
We are missing your tales of the seas  
So tell me, Mon Capitaine  
When do you sail back to port  
Cast your line out  
To bring you home  
To a waiting heart  
Who's missing those tales of the seas  
So tell me Mon Capitaine  
When do you sail back to port  
Fool if you ignore this silent prayer  
If you do, then things must change  
We're only missing your tales of the seas  
So tell me, Mon Capitaine  
When are you sailing back to port  
Because my Sailor sailed away  
Vowed never to return  
He took her heart with him  
She's missing his tales of the seas  
Mon Capitaine, has sailed away  
So there will be no more tales of the seas



## *Sea Trials*

From the mouth of the Humber you sailed  
Sea trials to the Dogger and back again  
Calling at Lincolnshire Ports along the way  
Before dropping anchor again in the Dogger  
Only to return to the mouth of the Humber  
Within days you're setting sail for Scotland  
Only to be 380 nautical miles from the Humber  
Switching the Dogger for the Cromarty  
Before long a force 9 whips her sails  
Chasing you to coastal waters  
Now drifting off the Coast of Aberdeen  
Waiting and waiting until she drops her winds  
After a week of waiting  
New orders send you back to the Dogger  
Before long you're sailing up the mouth of the Humber

## *Vessel v Ocean*

The vessel groaned at the huge weight  
As the ocean forced down upon her foredecks  
Giving way to angry shudders  
Halting her as she pitched forward  
Climbing triumphantly towards the surface  
Casting waters from her battened decks  
Whilst snatching winds buffeted her structure  
Clambering free of the chilling depths  
The ocean retaliates harder  
Stealing from under her eager bows  
Now pitching headlong beneath the yawning cavern  
As the ocean throws the next crest  
One moment a ferocious beast  
The next a mirrored tranquility of dimpled surface  
Flicking from angle to angle  
Illuminating air borne fish skipping free  
Creating ripples as it skims the waves  
What vast power lifting water from a peaceful scene  
Then bowling it on with increased energy  
Crushing determined intruder into craters  
Where suddenly wind appeared  
Tearing our lanyards and stays  
Dragging trails of white turmoil below  
Our fault of scars left behind  
Whilst the bows slice through tranquil calm  
Propeller pushing through the grey-green mass  
What of the water line?  
Known pain inflicted upon it  
Along with the anger brought upon ourselves.

## *Dance of the Dragonfly*

You're a big eighty metre toy  
Moving around under restricted maneuverability  
Towing behind your seismic cable  
Navigating pretty pictures in the sea  
A mischievous First Mate on the Bridge  
A master of Origami you may be  
With paper animals on parade  
In and around your cabin  
An average cruising speed of 10mph  
to a maximum cruise speed of 10 knots  
Animalia, Odonata, Anisoptera, in other words a Dragonfly  
From Granuaile to Granuaile II and now The Ocean Searcher  
Dragonfly Art Nouveau of decorative motifs  
Similar to your Rank and file of the Merchant Navy motif  
As pretty and decorative as a Dragonfly  
But you're only a First Officer still!

## *Force of Winds*

Words weaving my story,  
within an uttered rhyme,  
that happens to question my happiness,  
“Why are you so far away?”  
distance saddens my heart.

A string of curses and vexes heard,  
powerful emotions cascading down the North Sea,  
giving force to the winds,  
sending you near and near to the Yorkshire Coast,  
Ruffling your sails, whilst you stand at the helm.

Emotions cease control of the weather Gods,  
burnt wishes cast on a whim,  
stirring the winds from their slumber,  
making you to run for the coast,  
only to delay your “liberty!”

Weeks etching by,  
with stated wants and desires,  
only to wage war on the fabric of your name,  
as the sounds ripple around,  
making you closer.

Sounding it out tone by tone,  
till each letter is snatched,  
my head showing no remorse,  
so my heart can understand,  
why you have become so few sounds,  
but be such a man.

Only to hear me scream and shout your name,  
outside these walls,  
hoping that you feel it in the breeze.

## *The Albatross' Vomit*

It's putrid and green  
But rarely seen  
Floating out in the sea  
Quickly mixed within the hour  
Now when the weather is hot  
Water turns to vapor  
Forming tiny droplets  
Floating higher and higher  
Don't forget that mixed vomit  
They go up too!  
So when it rains  
It falls down on you  
So think upon that drink Coffee, tea or beer  
And remember this poem  
A word in your ear  
The Albatross lives near Australia  
So you think' but!  
It's vomit will happily float in your drink

## ***In the Stillness***

In the Stillness of the first watch  
Just listen to the rhapsody  
Of the Water's song  
Hear the Ocean's Wind  
Creating her own music  
As she sings down the ships side  
Whether in be a Symphony of another name  
Can you hear her  
Calling out your name  
Listen to her Ocean's Serenade  
Striking her melody  
Whilst she abaft the mast  
Her aim  
Only to enchant the listener's ears

## *Heart and Stars*

You stole my heart and sailed away  
so all I can do,  
is stay awake and wait for you  
Mon Capitaine will be coming home  
With tails of the sea  
Somewhere out there  
the ship you sail is lost in fog  
Somewhere of the coast  
He's navigating his way in the dark  
Just guided by the Stars  
Stars, in your multitudes  
Filling the skies with darkness or light  
Help keeping him watch in the night  
Holding him on true course and aim  
Keeping him safe  
Until he's ready to navigate back to port  
Mon Capitaine will be coming home  
With tails of the sea  
He's been away for so long  
He left his heart behind somewhere  
There comes a time  
when falling in love wasn't part of his plan  
So stay away tonight if you dare  
So when you can stay  
You can sleep in my arms and then sail on those oceans again  
Mon Capitaine is coming home  
With tails of the sea

## *Sailor's Coming Home*

You paid a high price  
Loving that sailor  
All those lonely nights  
Missing those kisses and promises  
When his ship sailed away  
Inside you've died a thousand times  
Oceans of tears shed  
Alone you stood with dreams and fears  
Days went by  
No word received  
Weeks become months  
Months felt like years  
Until that email arrived  
With a smile and grin as you now read  
They soon be docking  
Fears now dissipating fast  
My sailor been sad and lonely whilst away  
But he's been thinking of you  
Knowing that you're waiting for him  
Sailor a seafarer of old tradition  
With the sea cursing through their blood  
Be strong and wipe away the tear  
Now the battle's won  
Sailor's coming home



## *Destination Home*

For months you've served  
For weeks you've dreamed  
Today, you're hoping to head for port  
Hopefully, by evening you'll be anchored  
Maybe by morning you'll be moored  
For the next twenty four hours  
Sea, land and air  
Three main elements you've crossed  
Just to seek out a mechanical bird  
To make your destination home  
So you can rest  
Recharge those batteries  
Before returning to the seas

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