

KATIE MIND THE LIGHT!

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(1)

THE JANUARY WINDS ARE FIERCE
AS THE GALE SWEEPS O'ER THE BAY
THE SHORELINE LIGHTS HAVE DISAPPEARED
IN THE SHEETS OF FREEZING SPRAY
THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER IS DYING
HE'LL NOT SURVIVE THE NIGHT
HE CALLS HIS WIFE FOR ONE LAST WORD:
PLEASE, KATIE, MIND THE LIGHT!

(CHORUS AFTER FIRST VERSE)

PLEASE, KATIE, MIND THE LIGHT!
ON THIS FOUL AND STORMY NIGHT
MY TIME IS SHORT SO IT'S UP TO YOU
DEAR KATIE, MIND THE LIGHT!

(2)

SO NOW SHE'S LEFT A WIDOW
WITH HER TWO SMALL KIDS TO RAISE
BUT SHE'S COME TO LOVE THE LIGHTHOUSE
AND THE HARBOR'S BUSY WAYS
SHE LEARNED THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S TRADE
AT HER LOVING HUSBAND'S SIDE
SHE'LL PROVE HERSELF AND DO THE JOB
WITH COURAGE AND WITH PRIDE

(CHORUS AFTER VERSES 2 - 7)

PLEASE, KATIE, MIND THE LIGHT!
ON THIS AND EVERY NIGHT
SO MANY LIVES DEPEND ON YOU
SO KATIE, MIND THE LIGHT!

(3)

NOW KATIE WAS A WOMAN
WHO STOOD LESS THAN FIVE FEET TALL
WHO'D EVER EXPECT SO BRAVE A HEART
IN ANYONE SO SMALL?
BUT EACH DAY SHE'D STEER HER ROWBOAT
WITH A WATERMAN'S TRUE SKILL
TO BRING HER KIDS TO SCHOOL AND BACK
THRU THE CURRENTS OF THE KILL*

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(4)

THE SAILORS WHO REMEMBER
THE STORMS OF NINETY-SIX
STILL SHAKE THEIR HEADS AS THEY RECALL
THE DEVIL'S BAG OF TRICKS
THE FURY OF THE TEMPESTS
WRECKING EVERY BOAT IN SIGHT
ONE THING ALONE TO SAVE THEM -
'T WAS KATIE WALKER'S LIGHT!

(5)

ONE HORRID NIGHT A SCHOONER
SMASHES HEADLONG ON THE REEF
THE CAPTAIN AND HIS GALLANT CREW
CRY DESPERATE FOR RELIEF
SOON KATIE'S IN HER ROWBOAT
COMING FAST THRU ICE AND FOG
TO SAVE EACH STRUGGLING SCHOONERMAN
AND THE CAPTAIN'S SCOTTIE DOG!

(6)

IT'S THIRTY YEARS: KATE'S TIME HAS COME
NOW SHE'LL SPEND HER LIFE ASHORE
IT GRIEVES HER HEART TO REALIZE
THAT THE LIGHT IS HERS NO MORE
BUT THE KEEPER WHO SUCCEEDS HER?
WELL, SHE KNOWS *HE'LL* DO IT RIGHT -
IT'S KATE'S OWN SON NOW TAKING CARE
OF KATIE WALKER'S LIGHT!

(7)

KATE'S LIGHT TODAY AS IN THE PAST
GUIDES MARINERS FROM THE SHOALS
BUT HER KEEPERS AND THEIR KIND ARE GONE
THOSE BRAVE AND HARDY SOULS
SO DRINK A TOAST TO KATIE
AND HER NIGHTS ON ROBBINS REEF
TO THANK HER FOR DEVOTION
THAT'S ALMOST PAST BELIEF!

- BILL BLACK
MARCH 2006

* *KILL = THE KILL VAN KULL, A NARROW WATERWAY THAT SEPARATES
NEW JERSEY FROM THE NORTH SHORE OF STATEN ISLAND. ROBBINS
REEF LIGHTHOUSE STANDS AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE TO THIS
WATERWAY, ABOUT TWO MILES SOUTH OF LIBERTY ISLAND.*