

**KATIE MIND THE LIGHT!**

=====

(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\*

**KATIE MIND THE LIGHT!**

=====

(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.*