

Grateful Dead "Reuben & Cherise"

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Cherise was brushing her long hair gently down
It was the afternoon of carnival as she brushes it gently
down
Rubin was strumming his painted mandolin
It was inlaid with a pretty face in jade played in the
carnival parade
Cherise was dressing as Pirouette in white
When a fatal vision gripped her tight Cherise beware
tonight
Rubin, Rubin tell me truly true
I feel afraid and I don't know why I do, Is there another
girl for you?
If you could see my heart you would know it's true
There's none Cherise, except for you, except for you
I'd swear to it on my very soul, If I lie, say I fall down
cold
When Rubin played on his painted mandolin
The breeze would pause to listen in before going on its
way again
Masquerade began when nightfall finally woke
Like waves against the bandstand, dancers broke to
the painted mandolin
Looking out to the crowd who is standing there
Sweet Ruby Claire at Rubin stared, at Rubin stared
She was dressed as Pirouette in red
And her hair hung gently down
The crowd pressed round, Ruby stood as though alone
Rubin's song took on a different tone and he played it
just for her
The song he played was the carnival parade
Each note cut a thread of Cherise's fate it cut through
like a blade
Rubin was playing his painted mandolin
When Ruby froze and turned to stone for the strings
played all alone
The voice of Cherise from the face of the mandolin
Singing Rubin, Rubin tell me true for I have no one but
you
If you could see my heart you would know it true
There's none Cherise, except for you, except for you
I'd swear to it on my very soul, If I lie, say I fall down
cold

The truth of love an unsung song must tell
The course of love must follow blind without a look
behind
Rubin walked the streets of New Orleans till dawn
Cherise so lightly in his arms and her hair hung gently
down

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