

## **Judy Collins** **"Albatross"**

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The lady comes to the gate dressed in lavender and  
leather  
Looking North to the sea she finds the weather fine  
She hears the steeple bells ringing through the orchard  
All the way from town  
She watches seagulls fly  
Silver on the ocean stitching through the waves  
The edges of the sky  
Many people wander up the hills  
From all around you  
Making up your memories and thinking they have  
found you  
They cover you with veils of wonder as if you were a  
bride  
Young men holding violets are curious to know if you  
have cried  
And tell you why  
And ask you why  
Any way you answer  
Lace around the collars of the blouses of the ladies  
Flowers from a Spanish friend of the family  
The embroid'ry of your life holds you in  
And keeps you out but you survive  
Imprisoned in your bones  
Behind the isinglass windows of your eyes  
And in the night the iron wheels rolling through the rain  
Down the hills through the long grass to the sea  
And in the dark the hard bells ringing with pain  
Come away alone  
Even now by the gate with you long hair blowing  
And the colors of the day that lie along your arms  
You must barter your life to make sure you are living  
And the crowd that has come  
You give them the colors  
And the bells and wind and the dream  
Will there never be a prince who rides along the sea  
and the mountains  
Scattering the sand and foam into amethyst fountains  
Riding up the hills from the beach in the long summer  
grass  
Holding the sun in his hands and shattering the  
isinglass?

Day and night and day again and people come and go  
away forever  
While the shining summer sea dances in the glass of  
your mirror  
While you search the waves for love and your visions  
for a sign  
The knot of tears around your throat is crystallizing into  
your design  
And in the night the iron wheels rolling through the rain  
Down the hills through the long grass to the sea  
And in the dark the hard bells ringing with pain  
Come away alone  
Come away alone...with me.

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