

## Marc Almond "Old Jack's Charms"

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It was in the tattoo parlour  
Where he engraved their names  
Words a winding round his shoulders  
Reminders now he's older

In the magic of the parlour  
Down his arm unwinds a story  
Love and hate and mum and dad  
In flames of hope and glory

A mermaid and a schooner  
Tells us he was once at sea  
A heart pierced by an arrow  
Tells us once more in love was he  
And a dragon spitting fire  
He's forgotten what that's for  
But tattooed on his mind  
Is a reminder of the war

He gave up tattooing lovers  
Where no room for any others  
A line through every sweetheart  
With another etched below  
In every port a stormy girl  
They loved him and they loved him so  
Each one for all to see adorned  
With cupids and with bows

A mermaid and a schooner  
Tells us he was once at sea  
A heart pierced by an arrow  
Tells us once more in love was he  
And a dragon spitting fire  
He's forgotten what that's for  
But tattooed on his mind is a reminder of war

In the magic of the parlour  
Swapping laughter swapping stories  
Where the words are often hard  
And the air is always blue  
He remembers all his mates from then  
He lost a couple maybe ten

Their headstone on his forearm as a crucifix tattoo

Now he leans upon the bar  
With a mysterious air  
And the ladies gather round  
To view his decorated arms  
He'll tell them of each scroll and line  
And other scars not so fine  
And they always want to see  
A little more of old jacks charms

A mermaid and a schooner ...

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