

## **Meav Ni Mhaolchatha**

### **"The Wicked Sister"**

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A mother lived by the North Sea shore  
Daughters were the babes she bore  
One grew radiant as the sun  
Darkly grew the elder one

A knight came riding to their door  
He travelled far to be their wooer  
He courted both with gold and rings  
But loved the younger o'er all things

"Sister, won't you walk with me  
To watch the ships sail o'er the sea?"  
As they walked the rocky shore  
The dark one pushed her sister o'er

"Sister, sister, let me live  
All that's mine I'll surely give"  
"Thy bridegroom I will take and more  
But thou shalt never come ashore"

Off she floated like a swan  
The salt sea bore her body on  
You could not see her lily feet  
Her golden fringes were so deep

A minstrel walking by the strand  
Saw her body float to land  
When he looked that lady on  
He sighed and made a heavy moan

He made a harp of her breastbone  
Whose sound would melt a heart of stone  
Took the strands of her bright hair  
And with them strung his harp so rare

He brought the harp to the wedding hall  
There to play before them all  
When they set it on a stone  
The harp began to play alone

The strings sang out a dreadful sound  
"The bride her younger sister drowned"

Now her secret you all know  
Her guilty tears will surely flow"

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