

## **The Decemberists**

### **"A Cautionary Song"**

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There's a place your mother goes when everybody else  
is soundly sleeping  
Through the lights of beacon street  
And if you listen you can hear her weeping,  
She's weeping, cause the gentlemen are calling  
And the snow is softly falling on her petticoats.  
And she's standing in the harbour  
And she's waiting for the sailors in the jolly boat.  
See how they approach

With dirty hands and trousers torn they grapple 'til  
she's safe within their keeping  
A gag is placed between her lips to keep her sorry  
tongue from any speaking, or screaming  
And they row her out to packets where the sailor's sorry  
racket calls for maidenhead  
And she's scarce above the gunwales when her clothes  
fall to a bundle and she's laid in bed on the upper deck

And so she goes from ship to ship, her ankles clasped,  
her arms so rudely pinioned  
'Til at last she's satisfied the lost of the marina's  
seeming minions, in their opinions

And they tell her not to say a thing to cousin, kindred,  
kith or kin or she'll end up dead  
And they throw her thirty dollars and return her to the  
harbour where she goes to bed, and this is how your  
fed

So be kind to your mother, though she may seem an  
awful bother, and the next time she tries to feed you  
collard greens,  
Remember what she does when you're asleep

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