

# If I Was a Blackbird

*Traditional*

Am Em G F  
I am a young sailor, my story is sad  
C Em Am Em  
For once I was carefree and a bold sailor lad  
C Em Am Em  
I courted a lassie by night and by day  
Am Em G F  
Oh, but now she has left me and sailed far away

[chorus]

Am Em G F  
Oh, if I was a blackbird, could whistle and sing  
C Em Am Em  
I'd follow the vessel my true love sails in  
C Em Am Em  
And in the top rigging I would there build my nest  
Am Em G F  
And I'd flutter my wings o'er her lily-white breast

Am Em G F  
Or if I was a scholar and could handle a pen  
C Em Am Em  
One secret love letter to my true love I'd send  
C Em Am Em  
And I'd tell of my sorrow, my grief and my pain  
Am Em G F  
Since she's gone and left me in yon flowery glen

Am Em G F  
I offered to take her to Donnybrook Fair  
C Em Am Em  
And to buy her fine ribbons to tie up her hair  
C Em Am Em  
I offered to marry and to stay by her side  
Am Em G F  
But she says in the morning she sails with the tide

[chorus]

Am Em G F  
Oh, if I was a blackbird, could whistle and sing  
C Em Am Em  
I'd follow the vessel my true love sails in  
C Em Am Em  
And in the top rigging I would there build my nest  
Am Em G F  
And I'd flutter my wings o'er her lily-white breast

[instrumental]

Am Em G F  
I sailed o'er the ocean my fortune to seek  
C Em Am Em  
Though I missed her caress and her kiss on my cheek  
C Em Am Em  
I returned and I told her my love was still warm  
Am Em G F  
But she turned away lightly and great was her scorn

Am Em G F  
My parents they chide me, oh, they will not agree  
C Em Am Em  
Saying me and my false love married should never be  
C Em Am Em  
Oh, but let them deprive me, let them do what they will  
Am F G F  
While there's breath in my body she's the one that I love still

[chorus]

Am Em G F  
Oh, if I was a blackbird, could whistle and sing  
C Em Am Em  
I'd follow the vessel my true love sails in  
C Em Am Em  
And in the top rigging I would there build my nest  
Am Em G F  
And I'd flutter my wings o'er her lily-white breast