# The Mermaid

Shel Silverstein 1965 (as recorded by Great Big Sea 2005)

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / < melodion or tin whistle >**

**[G] / [D] / [G] / [D] /**

**[G] / [D] / [G] / [D]**

When **[D]** I was a lad in a fishing town

Me **[G]** old man said to **[D]** me

"You can **[D]** spend your life, your **[Bm]** jolly life

Just **[G]** sailing on the **[A]** sea

You can **[D]** search the world for pretty girls

‘Til your **[G]** eyes are weak and **[F#m]** dim

But **[G]** don't go searching for a **[D]** mermaid **[Bm]** son

If you **[G]** don't know **[A]** how to **[D]** swim"

‘Cause her **[G]** hair was green as **[D]** seaweed

Her **[G]** skin was blue and **[D]** pale

Her **[G]** face it was a **[D]** work of art

I **[G]** loved that girl with **[D]** all my heart

But I **[G]** only liked the **[D]** upper **[Bm]** part

I **[G]** did not **[A]** like the **[D]** tail

**INSTRUMENTAL: < Melodion or tin whistle >**

**[D] / [A] / [D] / [G][A] /**

**[D] / [A] / [D][G] / [A]**

I **[D]** signed onto a sailing ship

My **[G]** very first day at **[D]** sea

I **[D]** seen the Mermaid **[Bm]** in the waves

A-**[G]**reaching out to **[A]** me

"Come **[D]** live with me in the sea,” said she

**[G]** “Down on the ocean **[F#m]** floor

And I'll **[G]** show you a million **[D]** wonderous **[Bm]** things

You've **[G]** never **[A]** seen be-**[D]**fore”

So **[D]** over I jumped and she pulled me down

**[G]** Down to her seaweed **[D]** bed

On a **[D]** pillow made of a **[Bm]** tortoise-shell

She **[G]** placed beneath my **[A]** head

She **[D]** fed me shrimp and caviar

Up-**[G]**on a silver **[F#m]** dish

From her **[G]** head to her waist it was **[D]** just my **[Bm]** taste

But the **[G]** rest of **[A]** her was a **[D]** fish

‘Cause her **[G]** hair was green as **[D]** seaweed

Her **[G]** skin was blue and **[D]** pale

Her **[G]** face it was a **[D]** work of art

I **[G]** loved that girl with **[D]** all my heart

But I **[G]** only liked the **[D]** upper **[Bm]** part

I **[G]** did not **[A]** like the **[D]** tail

**INSTRUMENTAL: < Melodion or tin whistle >**

**[D] / [A] / [D] / [G][A] /**

**[D] / [A] / [D][G] / [A]**

But **[D]** then one day, she swam away

So I **[G]** sang to the clams and the **[D]** whales

"Oh, **[D]** how I miss her **[Bm]** seaweed hair

And the **[G]** silver shine of her **[A]** scales!”

But **[D]** then her sister, she swam by

And **[G]** set my heart a-**[F#m]↓**whirl **2 / 1 2**

‘Cause her **[G]** upper part was an **[D]** ugly **[Bm]** fish

But her **[G]** bottom part **[A]** was a **[D]** girl

Yes her **[G]** hair was green as **[D]** seaweed

Her **[G]** skin was blue and **[D]** pale

Her **[G]** legs they are a **[D]** work of art

I **[G]** loved that girl with **[D]** all my heart

And I **[G]** don't give a damn about the **[D]** upper **[Bm]** part

‘Cause **[G]** that's how I **[A]** get my **[D]** tail

**INSTRUMENTAL: < Melodion or tin whistle >**

**[D] / [A] / [D] / [G][A] /**

**[D] / [A] / [D][G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [A] / [D] / [G][A] /**

**[D] / [A] / [D][G] / [A]↓**

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[www.bytownukulele.ca](http://www.bytownukulele.ca)