# The Mary Ellen Carter

Stan Rogers 1979

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A]**

She **[D]** went down last Oc-**[Dmaj7]**tober in a **[G]** pouring **[A]** driving **[D]** rain

The **[Em]** skipper he’d been drinkin’ and the **[G]** mate he felt no **[A]** pain

Too **[D]** close to Three Mile **[Dmaj7]** Rock and she was **[G]** dealt her mortal **[D]** blow

And the **[Em]** Mary Ellen Carter settled **[A]** low **[A]**

There was **[D]** just us five a-**[Dmaj7]**board her when she **[G]** finally **[A]** was a-**[D]**wash

We’d **[Em]** worked like hell to save her, all **[G]** heedless of the **[A]** cost

And the **[D]** groan she gave as **[Dmaj7]** she went down, it **[G]** caused us to pro-**[D]**claim

That the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter would rise a-**[D]**gain **/ [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A]**

Well, the **[D]** owners wrote her **[Dmaj7]** off, not a **[G]** nickel **[A]** would they **[D]** spend

"She gave **[Em]** twenty years of service, boys, then **[G]** met her sorry **[A]** end

But in-**[D]**surance paid the **[Dmaj7]** loss to us, so **[G]** let her rest be-**[D]**low"

Then they **[Em]** laughed at us and said we had to **[A]** go **[A]**

But we **[D]** talked of her all **[Dmaj7]** winter, some **[G]** days a-**[A]**round the **[D]** clock

She’s **[Em]** worth a quarter million, a-**[G]**float and at the **[A]** dock

And with **[D]** every jar that **[Dmaj7]** hit the bar we **[G]** swore we would re-**[D]**main

And make the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter rise a-**[D]**gain **[D]**

Rise a-**[Em]**gain **[A]** rise a-**[D]**gain **[Dmaj7]**

That her **[G]** name not be lost to the **[D]** knowledge of **[A]** men

All **[D]** those who loved her **[Dmaj7]** best and were **[G]↓** with her **[A]↓** ‘til the **[D]** end

Will make the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter, rise a-**[D]**gain **/** **[Dmaj7] / [G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A]**

All **[D]** spring now we’ve been **[Dmaj7]** with her on a **[G]** barge lent **[A]** by a **[D]** friend

Three **[Em]** dives a day in a hard-hat suit and **[G]** twice I’ve had the **[A]** bends

Thank **[D]** God it’s only **[Dmaj7]** sixty feet and the **[G]** currents here are **[D]** slow

Or I’d **[Em]** never have the strength to go be-**[A]**low **[A]**

But we’ve **[D]** patched her rents **[Dmaj7]** stopped her vents

Dogged **[G]** hatch and **[A]** porthole **[D]** down

Put **[Em]** cables to her, ‘fore and aft, and **[G]** girded her a-**[A]**round

To-**[D]**morrow, noon, we **[Dmaj7]** hit the air and **[G]** then take up the **[D]** strain

And make the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter rise a-**[D]**gain **[D]**

Rise a-**[Em]**gain **[A]** rise a-**[D]**gain **[Dmaj7]**

That her **[G]** name not be lost to the **[D]** knowledge of **[A]** men

All **[D]** those who loved her **[Dmaj7]** best and were **[G]↓** with her **[A]↓** ‘til the **[D]** end

Will make the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter, rise a-**[D]**gain **/ [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A]**

For we **[D]** couldn’t leave her **[Dmaj7]** there, you see, to **[G]** crumble **[A]** into **[D]** scale

She’d **[Em]** saved our lives so many times **[G]** living through the **[A]** gale

And the **[D]** laughing, drunken **[Dmaj7]** rats who left her **[G]** to a sorry **[D]** grave

They **[Em]** won’t be laughing in another **[A]** day **[A]**

And **[D]** you, to whom ad-**[Dmaj7]**versity has **[G]** dealt the **[A]** final **[D]** blow

With **[Em]** smiling bastards lying to you **[G]** everywhere you **[A]** go

Turn **[D]** to, and put out **[Dmaj7]** all your strength of **[G]** arm and heart and **[D]** brain

And like the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter, rise a-**[D]**gain **[D]**

Rise a-**[Em]**gain **[A]** rise a-**[D]**gain **[Dmaj7]**

Though your **[G]** heart, it be broken, and **[D]** life about to **[A]** end

No **[D]** matter what you’ve **[Dmaj7]** lost, be it a **[G]↓** home, a **[A]↓** love, a **[D]** friend

Like the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter, rise a-**[D]**gain **[D]**

Rise a-**[Em]**gain **[A]** rise a-**[D]**gain **[Dmaj7]**

Though your **[G]** heart, it be broken, or **[D]** life about to **[A]** end

No **[D]** matter what you’ve **[Dmaj7]** lost, be it a **[G]↓** home, a **[A]↓** love, a **[D]** friend

Like the **[Em]** Mary Ellen **[A]** Carter, rise a-**[D]**gain **/ [Dmaj7] / [G] / [A] /**

**[D] / [Dmaj7] / [G]↓ [A]↓ / [D]↓**

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