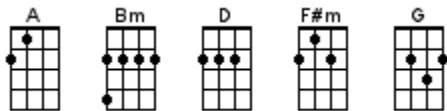


The Mermaid

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



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]↓

