



Rosabella

On a Monday morning in the month of May,
On a Monday morning in the month of May,
I thought I heard the old man say,
The "Rosabella" sails today.
And I'm goin' on board the Rosabella,
Yes, I'm goin' on board the "Rosabella",
I'm goin' on board, goin' right down to board
The saucy "Rosabella".

She's a deepwater ship with a deepwater crew
She's a deepwater ship with a deepwater crew
You can hug the coast but we're damned if we do
On board the "Rosabella".
And I'm goin' on board the "Rosabella"...

All around Cape Horn where the dolphins play ,
All around Cape Horn where the dolphins play,
All around Cape Horn it's a bloody long way
On board the "Rosabella".
And I'm goin' on board the "Rosabella"...

Them Weymouth girls they all will grieve
Them Weymouth girls they all will grieve
They've spent all my money and they've made me leave
On board the "Rosabella".
And I'm goin' on board the "Rosabella"...

Fare thee well you ladies of Weymouth town
Fare thee well you ladies of Weymouth town
I'd like to stay but I'm goin' on down
To board the "Rosabella"
And I'm goin' on board the "Rosabella"...

"The Rosabella" - collected in 1980 by Tom Brown ex Barnstaple, now London. Song rediscovered in archive of Museum Watchet, (Somerset, UK) - ancient Bristol Channel port. Rivalry between fishermen and coastal sailors towards deepwater or saltsea sailors was intense. Many young men would volunteer to go deepsea. - hence down to board. The singer has enlisted on the crew list and is probably drinking his month's advance. "Rosabella" is believed to have been a barque. She was a short plank Baltic trader, Portuguese or Spanish built. From Watchet she could load finished goods, livestock, bricks, wool or machinery. Watchet port silted up and was replaced by Bristol and Avonmouth. Song dates from 1860's.