

The Wellerman

New Zealand Sea Shanty, 1830's

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Intro: [E7] [Am]

There [Am] once was a ship that put to sea
And the [Dm] name of the ship was the [Am] Billy o' Tea
The [Am] winds blew up, her bow dipped down
O [E7] blow, my bully boys, [Am] blow. Huh!

CHORUS

[F] Soon may the [C] Wellerman come
To [Dm] bring us sugar and [Am] tea and rum
[F] One day, when the [C] tonguin' is done
We'll [E7] take our leave and [Am] go

She [Am] had not been two weeks from shore
When [Dm] down on her a [Am] right whale bore
The [Am] captain called all hands and swore
He'd [E7] take that whale in [Am] tow

CHORUS

Be-[Am]fore the boat had hit the water
The [Dm] whale's tail came [Am] up and caught her
All [Am] hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When [E7] she dived down be-[Am]low

CHORUS

No [Am] line was cut, no whale was freed
The [Dm] Captain's mind was [Am] not on greed
But [Am] he belonged to the whaleman's creed
She [E7] took the ship in [Am] tow

CHORUS

For [Am] forty days, or even more
The [Dm] line went slack, then [Am] tight once more
All [Am] boats were lost, there were only four
But [E7] still that whale did [Am] go

CHORUS

As [Am] far as I've heard, the fight's still on
The [Dm] line's not cut and the [Am] whale's not gone
The [Am] Wellerman makes his regular call
To en-[E7] courage the Captain, [Am] crew and all

CHORUS

and then FINAL CHORUS

[F] Soon may the [C] Wellerman come
To [Dm] bring us sugar and [Am] tea and rum
[F] One day, when the [C] tonguin' is done
We'll [E7] take our leave and [Am] go

