

# Iron Maiden - Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Tom: **A**  
Intro:

Riff **A**

Riff **B**

Verse

(Note that on the 'Live After Death' version, the guitars play between **D** and **E**, I think to make the song more interesting)

**E**  
Hear the rime of the Ancient Mariner,  
[Riff B]  
see his eye as he stops one of three

**E**  
Mesmerises one of the wedding guests -  
**C** [Riff B] **E**  
Stay here and listen to the nightmares of the sea.

**C**  
And the music plays on as the bride passes by  
**D** [Riff B] **E**  
**Caught** by his spell and the Mariner tells his tale.

( = I would suggest faking that little fill on the studio version)

**D E**  
Driven south the the land of the snow and ice,  
[Riff B]  
to a place where nobody's been.

**E C**  
Through the snow fog flies on the albatross, hailed in God's name,  
[Riff B] **E**  
hoping good luck it brings.

**C**  
And the ship sails on, back to the north.  
**D** [Riff B]  
Through the fog and ice and the albatross follows on.

Shanty **A**

Murray

Smith

Murray

Smith

(lots of **E** power chordage)

Murray

Smith

Murray

Smith

Verse

**E** [Riff B]  
The mariner kills the bird of good omen  
**E** [Riff B]  
His shipmates cry against what he's done

**E** [Riff B]  
But when the fog clears they justify him  
**E**  
And make themselves a part of the crime.

**C D**  
Sailing on and on and North across the

Shanty **B**

Murray

Smith

**C**  
sea... Sailing on and on and  
**D** [Shanty B]  
North 'til all is calm.

**E** [Riff B]  
The albatross begins with its vengeance  
**E** [Riff B]  
A terrible curse, a thirst has begun

**E** [Riff B]  
His shipmates blame bad luck on the Mariner  
About his neck the dead bird is hung.

**C D** [Shanty B]  
And the curse goes on and on and on at sea.  
**C D** [Shanty B]  
And the curse goes on and on for them and me.

**E** [Riff B]  
"Day after day, day after day we stuck nor breath nor motion.  
As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.

**D** [Riff B]  
Water water everywhere, and all the boards did shrink  
**E** [Riff A] (twice)  
Water water everywhere, nor any drop to drink."  
(S.T.Coleridge)

(this entire section will be repeated again below with different words)

**E E**  
There, calls the mariner, there comes a ship over the

Murray

Smith

line.

**E E**  
But how can she sail with no wind in her sails and no

Murray

Smith

tide.

**C2**

Murray

Smith

Middle section:

See... Onward she comes...

(key changes to **D** )

**A**

Bass

Murray

A or **F**

Smith

G or **Eb**

Onward she nears out of the sun...

Murray

**C2**

Smith

Murray

Murray

Smith

Smith

See... She has no crew...

(all guitars repeat above patterns for lyrics below)

**A**

"One after one by the star-dogged moon, too quick for groan or sigh  
Each turned his face with a ghastly pang and cursed me with his eye.  
Four times fifty living men (and I heard nor sigh nor groan),  
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump, they dropped down one by one."  
(S.T.Coleridge)

Murray

Bass

Smith

**Dm**

She has no life, wait but there's two

(Now repeat entire above pattern with these lyrics)

**Cm**

**E E**

Death and she life in death, they throw their dice for the crew

**E E**

She wins the mariner and he belongs to her now.

**C2 A**

Then... crew one by one, they drop down dead, two hundred men

**C2 A**

She, she life in death, she lets him live, her chosen one.

G:-----|  
D:--1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----|  
A:---3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3---|  
E:-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3---|

Now for some instrumental chords:

Murray

**Gb A E F G** (Smith plays chords, Murray plays root-note triplets)

**Gb A E F G**

Smith

Play this part a total of four times (follow the left/right channels all the way through to the ending **C** and **Eb** chords, then return to the start) but the last time, skip the **C** and **Eb** and end on the little fill before the quiet part.

Murray

Smith

(tacet)

**E**

Bass (think Number of the Beast; this may be played an octave higher)

Murray

(it could also be this)

Smith

**C Eb**

Bass plays above figure twice, then Murray joins with palm-muted **D** while bass changes to Bass Riff 1 for lyrics.

Murray

Bass Riff 1

Smith

**Dbm**

Bass Riff 2

Murray

Smith

[Bass Riff 1]

The curse it lives on in their eyes, the Mariner he wished he'd die

[Bass Riff 2]

Along with the sea creatures but they lived on, so did he.

(Smith joins Murray in playing the palm-muted **D** )

[Bass Riff 1]

And by the light of the moon, he prays for their beauty not doom

[Bass Riff 2]

With heart he blesses them, God's creatures all of them too.

Bass Riff 3 (not sure about this one) Guitar stays the same

[Bass Riff 3]

Then the spell starts to break The albatross falls from his neck

Bass Riff 4

[Bass Riff 4]

Sinks down like lead into the sea

Bass Riff 5

[Bass Riff 5]

Then down in falls comes the rain.....

(key changes to **A** )

(All guitars continue with **A** )

Both guitars:

**A F G A**

Murray continues playing above figure under Adrian's solo:

**A F**

**G A**

**F G A**

**F G**

**A**

**F**

**G E**

= Now, the key changes back to **E** and Adrian's rhythm is **C - D - E**.

On the last note of Adrian's solo, Dave comes in with the exact same note and takes over lead while Adrian drops back to rhythm.

**E C**

**D E**

**C**

**D E**

( = countinuously hammer-on and pulloff while raising and lowering tremolo bar)

**C D E**

( = dive bomb on tremolo bar followed by slow raise to pitch)

**C**

**D**

Whew! Now, the next harmony:

**E C D** (chords implied by bass)

Murray

Smith

Murray

Smith

(There seems to be a third, overdubbed rhythm guitar here)

Murray

Smith

(I think you get the idea here.)

**E**

Murray

Smith

Play above section three times - on third repeat, play **E** chord in gallop rhythm and start it all over!!!!

**E C D**

**E C D**

**E**

Hear the groans of the long dead seamen

[Riff B]

See them stir as they start to rise

Bodies lifted by good spirits

**C** [Riff B]

None of them speak and they're lifeless in their eyes

**C**

And revenge is still sought, penance starts again

**D** [Riff B]

Cast into a trance and the nightmare carries on.

**D E** [Riff B]

Now the curse is finally lifted, and the Mariner sights his home

Spirits go from the long dead bodies

**C** [Riff B]

Form their own light and the Mariner's left alone.

Play [Shanty A] again! (remember that?)

**E** [Riff B]  
And then a boat came sailing towards him  
**E** [Riff B]  
It was a joy he could not believe

**E** [Riff B]  
The pilot's boat, his son and the hermit  
**E**  
Penance of life will fall onto Him.

**C D**  
And the ship it sinks like lead into the  
Shanty **B**

**C**  
sea... And the hermit  
**D** [Shanty B]  
shrieves the Mariner of his sins.

**E** [Riff B]  
The Mariner's bound to tell of his story  
**E** [Riff B]  
To tell his tale wherever he goes

**E** [Riff B]  
To teach God's word by his own example  
That we must love all things that God made.

**C D** [Shanty B]  
And the wedding guest's a sad and wiser man  
**C D E**  
And the tale goes on and on and on and on...

As the song is fading out, Steve Harris plays:

## Acordes

