

## Banks of Claudy

Loreena Mckennitt

As I walked out one morning  
All in the month of May  
Down by a flowery garden  
I carelessly did stray

I overheard a young maid  
In sorrow did complain  
All for her absent lover  
Who ploughs the raging main.

I boldly stepped up to her  
And put her in surprise  
I know she did not know me  
I being in disguise.

I says, "Me charming creature  
My joy, my heart's delight,  
How far have you to travel  
This dark and dreary night?"

"I'm in search of a faithless young man  
Johnny is his name  
And along the banks of Claudy  
I'm told he does remain."

"This is the banks of Claudy,  
Fair maid, where you stand  
But don't depend on Johnny  
For he's a false young man.

"Oh, don't depend on Johnny  
For he'll not meet you here  
But tarry with me in yon green woods  
No danger need you fear.

"Oh, it's six long weeks or better  
Since Johnny left the shore  
He's crossing the wild ocean  
Where the foam and the billows roar.

"He's crossing the wild ocean  
For honour and for fame  
But this I've heard, the ship was wrecked  
All on the coast of Spain ."

Oh it's when she heard this dreadful news  
She flew into despair  
By the wringing of her milk-white hands  
And the tearing of her hair.

Saying, "If Johnny he is drowned  
No man on earth I'll take  
But through lonesome groves and valleys  
I'll wander for his sake."

Oh it's when he saw her loyalty  
No longer could he stand

He flew into her arms saying,  
"Betsy, I'm the man."

Saying, "Betsy, I'm the young man  
The cause of all your pain  
But since we've met on Claudy banks  
We'll never part again."