

Julianne

Lyrics and music may be traditional or may be by the New Christy Minstrels

A^m

The shady side of sunny mountain;
D^m A^m
That's the place it all began.

There once lived the fairest maiden;
D^m E⁷ A^m
And her name was Julianne.

Juli's beau was tall and handsome.
Just a poor boy with treasures few;
Still he promised stings of silver,
For to prove his love was true.

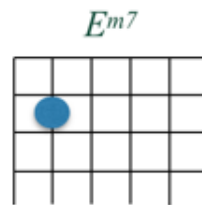
The cabin door was standing open,
On the wild and lonely night.
And the hound dog he lay a-dying,
In the gloomy candle light.

They found her shattered empty rifle,
And the shawl she used to wear.
But they never his Juli,
And they never found,
Never found that hungry bear.

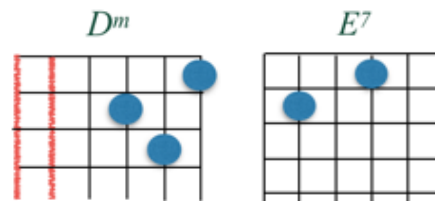
CHORUS

CHORUS

A^m F G⁷ C E^{m7}
Have you seen her in the moonlight,
E^m F G⁷ C E
Silver rings upon her hand.
A^m



Now she wears a crown of sorrow;
D^m E⁷ A^m
And her name, and her name, is Julianne.



Wake me early in the morning,
Ere the birds begin to sing,
I'll get silver from the mountain,
And I'll fashion ye a ring.

Off he road across the mountains,
When the Fields were damp with dew;
But, instead he went a rambling,
And a-courtin', a-courtin; Ginny-Lou.

CHORUS

Songs as you go

History

“Julianne” presents yet another folk song mystery as the author of the lyrics and music is lost in time. The poem, melody line and harmonies combine in a compelling tale of star crossed love; a faithful woman whose heart is broken by the callow perfidy of a young man.



This may or may not be Julianne. The photograph is uncredited. In her wistfully sorrowful expression and crown of sorrows, she certainly could be.

The typical reaction from people hearing it for the first time is a sort of muted outrage at the injustice of the outcome. The first two thirds of the song induces a kind of pleasant revery not unlike that brought about by the gentle rocking of a train. Then suddenly, in the last couple lines poor Juli meets with a tragic, and indeed horrifying end.

We're left to wonder did either the young man or the bear suffer?!? We want justice, but sense that this song has come down to us through so many generations that we are left with no way to travel back to the scene, confront the miscreants and find some way to right the wrong.

The New Christy Minstrels included a credible version of “Julianne” on their 1963 *Tall Tales Legends & Nonsense* album.



Tom Hill has recorded a grittier and less ”produced” version called “Silver Mountain.” Find it at <http://www.broadjam.com/>.

As to who wrote the lyrics and music, a “GUEST” on mudcat.org/ writes, “I learned the JulieAnn song back in school in southeast Colorado in the 60's. I sang it to my daughter when she was growing up and now we both sing it to her twin daughters. It originated in Pike County Kentucky back years ago. I found an article on it online by Googling "and she wears a crown of sorrow.”

Rick Larson, broadjam.com, mudcat.org/ and the ever faithful Wikipedia