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THE DEVIL'S WENCH

BY

Donald Erickson.

MUSIC

CHORUS SINGING AN OLD ENGLISH SEA SHANTY.

NARRATOR: JAMES PAGGITT

Name's Jim Peggitt, member of a crew
What sailed the salt sea back in '92...
Hah ha ! How d'ye do ...Have a rum !
We'll soon be shakin' sail for the devil, chum.

Aye...t'was the devil's greed we catered to
With the devil's sign on the masthead, too,
Jolly old Roger, with crossbones behind,
Grinnin' as we come upon the Spanishkind.

I sailed with Kidd, Cap'n Billy Kidd.
There's a name King William would be rid,
But God rest Billy down with Davy Jones
He never knew the difference betwixt right and wrong.

Why, there was no man like hin on the Seven Seas;
He could climb up to the yard arm with a monkey's ease,
An' cutlass through a hunderd men as if they was cheese,
Stoppin' only to ask for more rum, if you please....

Hah hahahah. Aye. But...t'was rich
Those days we sailed into the Spaniard's reach....
You wouldn't believe the treasure Kidd stowed away,
Millions of gold coin in ~~some~~ Carribean bay.....

But the more he got the more he wanted, too.
Why, the Spanish throne he would have sacked, it's true.
He would have gone on wrecking till the Judgement Day,
If he hadn't met his equal on a ship the^y called Queday.

Aye, a fat old merchantman rolling in the brine;
We gave her shot an' cannon, then swung her into line;
With cutlass thrust between our teeth an' pistols near at
hand,
We swung aboard an' fought with the fury of the damned....

(FADE)

SOUND OF FIGHTING. SCREAMS OF DYING. SHOUTS OF TRIUMPH.

NARRATOR Fought 'em to silence, groans, an' prayers...
which after Kidd was finished was the finish of there's.
To the sharks went the Captain, the mate, and crew.....
Then Kidd lined the ladies up for review....

SOUND LAUGHTER FROM THE MEN. SHRIEKS FROM THE WOMEN.

KIDD Alright, lads, look 'em over, take your pick, an'
then let's get down to the business of this ship !

PIRATE 1 I'll take this one ! Ha ha ! Come on, me beauty.

WOMAN Please, sir, I am a helpless.....

(CUT IN LAUGHTER OF MEN)

PIRATE 2 And I --- this one ! Come on, doxie.

PIRATE 3 And I've got you ! We'll have an ocean wedding, wench !

SOUND THE WOMEN ARE CHOSEN AMONG LAUGHTER, HOOTING, AND
CRIES OF DISTRESS FROM THE WOMEN. DOWN TO BG.

KIDD Friend Jeremy ! Don't ye mind one to your liking ?

JEREMY BASS Nay, Cap'n --- they're a frowsy lot. They mak
yell and stomp as if it was their last day, but it's
another way of saying yes. Meself, I like 'em
refined.

KIDD You've been spoiled, Jeremy. Ever since we captured
that prize bound for Macao and ye grabbed the governor's
daughter.

Aye, she was a good one. Ye shouldn't have thrown
her overboard, Jeremy.

JEREMY I haven't found one to equal her, Cap'n.

KIDD Look, Jeremy ! They've missed the best one o' the lot. See her on the end ?

JEREMY Hmmm. She's made well, Cap'n, it's true, but she's got a cold stare. I know that kind . First chance she got she'd slip a dagger betwixt your ribs.

KIDD Bring her over here, Jeremy. She may have a cold stare for the crew, but it looks warm this way.

JEREMY Cap'n -- I thought you wanted to go below to see the cargo.

KIDD Never mind the cargo, Jeremy. Bring that wench over here and look smart.

JEREMY Aye --- Cap'n.

SOUND OF BG UP

JEREMY Come with me, doxie.

ANNE SMITH I'll go no where with you, and I'm not a doxie.

JEREMY By thunder, it'll be over the side with you, then !

ANNE Bah ! Is it the Captain who wants to see me ?

JEREMY It's ~~the~~ the captain who wants to see you, vixen --- But it'll be me who'll cut out your tongue if I hear one word more. Now --- step along !

SOUND UP

JEREMY Here she is, Cap'n Kidd.

KIDD Hmmm.

ANNE Anne's my name and I was bound for.....

KIDD She's a well made indeed, Jeremy.

JEREMY She is, sir. but she's

KIDD Stands like a queen.

JEREMY Maybe, but.....

KIDD Her eyes have fire.

JEREMY Aye, but.....

KIDD

I like her looks, Jeremy, dye hear ?

Take her below to my cabin.

JEREMY

To...your cabin...Cap'n. Very well, then...Cap'n.

ANNE

One moment, Captain . Take me below to your

cabin, did you say ? -- Standing to one side --

looking me up and down --- She looks well, Jeremy ---

Has fine eyes, Jeremy -- Has got a good figure,

Jeremy. What do you think me , Captain ?

A pet dog ? -- a horse ? Go to your cabin ?

With this -- this foulness you name Jeremy ?

I am not to be treated this way, do you understand,

not even by the famous William Kidd, I assure you,

Captain. I am a woman of character and I insist

on being treated as such.

JEREMY

(YELLING) You're a rotten, brazen strumpet off the

London streets and if you don't go below to the

Captain's cabin as you've been told, you'll go

overboard to the unsuspectin' sharks ---!!!

Will not be treated this way -- Hah !! You're

lucky to be treated any way, my lass, but with a

club, you noxious, split-tongued, worthless baggage,

I tell you !!!

KIDD

Hold your tongue, Mr. Bass !! Ahem. You must....

pardon us ...Madame, for our rudeness of manner.

We.... so long at sea, that is, in this hard practice,

has made us forget the niceties to which

I'm sure, you're used.....

Madame, I will escort you to your cabin personally....

your own cabin, Miss.

ANNE Why --- thank you, Captain. I am extremely grateful.

SOUND STEPS

KIDD (FROM A DISTANCE) Oh, Mr. Bass, bring me a full report of the ship's cargo, when you have it. We must hoist sail soon.

 (SILENCE)

 (A PAUSE)

TOM Hoh hoh hoh. Ever seen the like o' that, Jeremy ? -- So long at sea has made us forget the niceties to which I'm sure you're accustomed.... Hoh hoh hoh.

JEREMY Stop your foul old tongue, or I'll hang it on the riggin', d'ye hear ?

MUSIC HOLD BG.

NARRATOR Aye, the devil's need we catered to But you can't serve the devil and a woman, too. We couldn't figure out what had happened to Kidd, But we wrecked less ships than we ever did.

MUSIC BRIDGE TO

SOUND THE CREAK OF THE SHIP. LOW ANGRY MURMUR OF THE CREW.

TOM Jeremy --- ever heard that sound out of men's throats before ? They don't like it, Jeremy. Three months gone by an' many a rich prize let pass. The men are wantin' their rum and women, Jeremy, and the good, hard feel of coin.

JEREMY Aye, Tom, I know it....

TOM What's wrong with the Cap'n, Jeremy ? He's had women before this, ~~Jeremy~~.

JEREMY I don't know, Tom.

TOM Come now, Jeremy. ---What is it ?

JEREMY She's too clever for the good of him, that's what.

TOM He stomps around the bridge shoutin' like a lunatic

at the men.

JEREMY

Believe it or not, she's holdin' him off at arm's length, Tom. She's playin' the perfect lady and it's the first time it's ever happened to Kidd. He's never met a real lady before. And he doesn't know how to handle her.

TOM

Her a lady !

JEREMY

Aye, Tom -- a lady. She's as much a lady as I am. She's a London doxy, if I ever saw one, but they can be uncommon smart. She's not lettin' him nearer than three feet from her, I'd guess -- and is full of "How nice -- extremely good of you -- now, now, William --" Huh !

TOM

Aye ----- but, Jeremy.....why? What's she after ?

JEREMY

That's what I'd like to know, Tom --- what she's after.

SOUND

THE CREAK OF THE SHIP. ~~8398382382~~ DOWN EG TO

ANNE

William

KIDD

Well, Anne...?

ANNE

There's stars and there's stars up there --

KIDD

Aye --

ANNE

Like diamonds -- millions and millions of diamonds --

KIDD

Aye --

ANNE

Sparkling and twinkling --- Would you give me diamonds like that, William, millions and millions of them ?

KIDD

Aye --

ANNE

You would William ? --Then, I would know that you loved me, William. This way, I don't know, do you see ? ---- Don't be angry at me, William.

KIDD

Then why don't ye melt a little, Anne ? ! Three months of it is too much for any man ! Whif, to beg

a kiss from ye is like askin' for a fortune !
...I'll treat ye well, Anne, I promise ye. I'll
give ye gold -- yes, an' diamonds -- plenty of them
if that's what ye want.

ANNE It's not just that I want, William.

KIDD Well, what is it, Anne, what is it ---?

ANNE I want to be sure ye love me William, that's all.

KIDD I want ye to marry me, Anne !

ANNE William !

KIDD Aye, marry me. I may be a pirate -- but I'm a
wealthy one. I tell ye I'll load ye with diamonds
from stem to stern, from temple to toe, Anne ---

ANNE Will ye, William ---?

KIDD Aye -- on the day we're married, Anne. Ye'll hardly
walk for the weight of 'em.

ANNE William --- I believe I'm losing my heart to ye.

KIDD Then, lass, seal it with a kiss !

ANNE Nay, William --- wait a bit. Come's the time we're
married, William, there will be kisses in plenty, then.

KIDD Ye're the most maddenin' woman I ever met !!

ANNE Aye -- William -- that's what I want. -- Now, ye
must go.Goodnight, William.

KIDD Anne, lass.....

ANNE William now.

SOUND THE DOOR SHUTS. CREAK OF THE SHIP.

KIDD I'll go down an' get me some rum. Aye --- rum.

SOUND A SLIGHT SCUFFLE.

KIDD Who's there ? I see ye -- I see ye !! Hah !

SOUND A STRUGGLE. GRUNTS ETC.

KIDD Jeremy Bass !

SOUND HEAVY BREATHING.

KIDD Explain yerself, Mr. Bass. What were ye doin' outside
that cabin ? ! Out with it !!!

JEREMY Cap'n. (CHOKING) Ye -- re cho - king me.
 Alright ! I'll tell ye !

KIDD Then -- let's have it !!!

JEREMY Ye've got a dangerous crew, Cap'n Kidd. Three months
 an' not a single prize. The men are tired of it.

KIDD What were ye doin' outside that cabin ? !!! Tell
 me !

JEREMY (CHOKING) I wanted ... to find why
 ye were actin' this way

KIDD Spit it out !! The truth !!. Or I'll break your
 bones one by one !

 Ah hah -- I'm on to ye Jeremy. Pretendin' not to like
 her -- tryin' to keep my eyes off her -- so's ye
 could have her for yourself. -- I know ye,
 Jeremy, ye low tide scum !

 Well, ye'll not have her. She's going to marry me
 -- d'ye hear -- marry me. What d'ye think of that
 Jeremy ? Ye don't like it, eh ?

JEREMY No -- Cap'n -- ye've got me wrong. I don't want her...
 she's....

KIDD So, ye're stirrin' up the crew against me, eh ? !

 If ye can't get at me one way, ye will another, eh ? !

 Well, I'm not lettin' ye get away with it -- no
 more !!!

JEREMY Don't shoot, Cap'n ! Ye've got me wrong -- ye've got
 to ---

SOUND PISTOL EXPLOSION.

 JEREMY SLIDES TO THE GROUND.

JEREMY Ye had me wrong, Cap'n. I only.... wanted to say ...
 she's..... she's..... (DIES)

SOUND RUNNING FEET

TOM What's up, Cap'n ? --- What's --(SEES JEREMY)
 ----Jeremy....

KIDD He was after my ship, and my woman, too ---
No one crosses William Kidd -- no one

TOM Jeremy.....

KIDD Take him above and throw him over the side ---
We're settin' sail for Bermuda, Tom -- d'ye hear ?
There'll be a marryin' preacher, there --- We're
droppin' anchor ⁱⁿ Bermuda bay !!

MUSIC SEA SHANTY.

SOUND CLANK OF CHAIN GOING DOWN. MEN CHANTING IN TIME BG.

KIDD A pirate's only harbour, Anne.

ANNE It'sit's lovely, William.

KIDD See that place up on the side of the hill ? -- the
big white house ? --

ANNE Aye -- I see it, William.

KIDD She's yours, Anne -- yours an' mine -- when ye marry
me --- and diamonds and gold enough to sink a man-o-
war --- when ye marry me, Anne.

BBB (FADE TO BG

TOM He's a changed man, Kidd.

SAILOR Aye, for the worse.

TOM Imagine him under the thumb of a wench.

SAILOR Aye, she's poisoned him.

TOM What happened to Jeremy could happen to any of us.
He 's all sweetness an' light with 'er but he's a
mad dog with the rest of us.

SAILOR One look at her an' yer as good as dead.

TOM I'm thinkin' we'd best seek another Captain.

SAILOR Aye --- an' quickly, too.

MUSIC BRIDGE TO

KIDD There she is -- the whole house -- Ye've seen through
the lot of it, Anne.

ANNE It's so big -- I'd need servants.

BBB

KIDD And servants ye shall have -- plenty of 'em.
Anne, it's all yours -- house -- servants --
after ye marry me, of course.

ANNE William.

KIDD Eh ? Well ?

ANNE I've heard great tales about ye --- the ships ye've
sunk -- the sea's ye've crossed --- the men ye've --
killed --

KIDD (GRUNTS)

ANNE Ye've led a wicked life -- William -- ye'vedone
many wicked things.

KIDD Aye -- it's the way of a pirate.
(PAUSE)

ANNE Can I trust ye, William ?

KIDD Why, what d'ye mean, Anne ? --

ANNE I mean -- a man like you -- doing all those things --
t'wouldn't mean nothing to ye to cross a maid like
me. T'would be easy. Wouldn't it, William ?

KIDD What d'ye want me to do, Anne ? -- I'm offering to
marry ye !

ANNE But d'ye love me, William ? Y'see it would be easy
for ye to marry me -- live with me for awhile --
and then when ye get tired of me -- throw me out in
the street.

KIDD Anne --

ANNE It's happened before, William.
(PAUSE)

KIDD What must I do ? I love ye -- I'm mad after ye !
I'll give ye everythin' -- everythin' !!

ANNE After you've married me --- you could laugh at me, then.
(PAUSE)

KIDD Here ! This pouch around my neck. I'll show ye
I love ye, Anne. Now.....open it.

SOUND RUSTLE OF PAPER.

KIDD Here ! Here it is ! --The treasure map --- my
~~33333333~~ map of my treasure hidden away --- millions
and millions in gold coin --- an' emeralds and rubies
and diamonds --- enough to buy half of England, Anne --
360 chests of solid treasure ---and no man but me
knows how to find it -- unless he has this map.

ANNE (GENUINELY AWESTRUCK) William ! !

KIDD Look at it, Anne, look at it !

ANNE But I don't understand it. What are all those lines ?

KIDD Lines ? Hahah. Lines to the treasure, Anne -- See --
here there's a goat path up the side of the hill --
we leave it here -- where this queer shaped rock is --
now, see over here about a hundred feet is a tree --
a tree with its lower limb cut off --- now, if ye
follow this symbol ye'll see that when the sun reaches
a certain height in the sky, the shadow of the tree
falls this way ---- an' where it ends -- at that time --
at that point -- there's where the treasure lies
buried.

Will ye marry me, Anne ?

ANNE Ye'll give me the map, William ?

KIDD ~~333~~ Hah !

SOUND A RIP

KIDD I'll give ye half the map --- one without the other
is no good -- It's like you an' me, Anne. (WHISPERING
CLOSE TO HER) We're no good -- one without the other...
are we ?

ANNE N-no, William.

KIDD When ye marry me -- I swear it -- ye'll get the other
half.

ANNE ...William...

KIDD This half goes back in me pouch till then ---
an' now, we get married, Anne !
I've got the preacher waiting.

ANNE William --- I....I.....

KIDD What's wrong, Anne ?

ANNE I promise you I'll marry you but.....

KIDD But ! But what ? !!

ANNE I won't feel right unless I have a proper wedding --
with my uncle to give me away.

KIDD Your Uncle ! Your Uncle !

ANNE Yes --- he lives in Boston. Oh, William, please---
please. It's my last --- my very last solemn request.
And then -- we'll be married, William!

KIDD Boston's thick with redcoats.

ANNE Please -- William. It's all I'm going to ask of you.

KIDD (AFTER A PAUSE) To Boston, then, Anne. I swear
I'll have ye and if it's to Boston I must go to get
ye -- why to Boston I'll go !
But this is the last condition !

ANNE Yes -- William -- yes -- this is the last. The very
last.

MUSIC SINGING SEA SHANTY. END HOLD BG.

NARRATOR So th Boston he went on the boundin' seas,
With little Anne perched on his knees,
But half his crew stayed in Port au Cid,
For the devil was gunnin' for William Kidd.....

MUSIC SINGING UP QUICKLY AND OUT.

SOUND OF 200 OARLOCKS. DIPPING OARS.

KIDD 'Tis a cold place, this Boston, Anne. A bad harbour
for a South Sea man.

ANNE Is it, William ?

KIDD Aye -- the governor here has been after me for many
a year. He'd give a King's ransom to find me.

ANNE Really, William ?

KIDD But there's friends o' mine along the harbour
would cut off their hands before they'd see
me caught.

---Alright, pull into that pier on the lee, sailor,
and let us off.

SAILOR Aye, aye, sir.

SOUND THE BOAT BUMPS PIER.

KIDD Out ye jump, Anne. --Remember, sailor, be back here
at nine tonight an' no mistake !

SAILOR *Aye, sir, nine tonight.*

ANNE No ..no, William. Tomorrow night. I have to find...
my Uncle, and it may be he has moved ... since I..I
heard from him, William.

KIDD Ye'll be the death of me, Anne ! Sailor --- it's
tomorrow night at nine, d'ye hear ?

SAILOR Aye, sir, I hear ye, sir. Tomoorrow night at nine.

KIDD Now --- let's away, Anne. Quickly !

MUSIC OF BAVERN.

SOUND STEPS ON PAVEMENT. STOP.

ANNE Is this the place, William ?

KIDD Aye --- this the place, Anne. The greatest nest of
thieves and pirates in the world -- Ye won't mind,
will ye, Anne, just for one night.?

ANNE Not while I'm with you, William ? What's it called ?

KIDD The Golden Eagle. Hahahh ! Listen to 'em !

ANNE William, so we won't lose any time, I'll go and find
my Uncle. We'll get married right away.

KIDD right away ? ---Oh hoh ! I see, Anne. Why, it may
be that you're getting a little warm towards old
William, eh ? -- Anne ?

ANNE (COQUETTISHLY) William !

KIDD Hurry along and get your Uncle. I'll have the best
preacher the waterfront can afford inside.

ANNE I can scarce wait to get back, William.

KIDD I love ye, Anne --- I love ye.

ANNE Ta ta, William.

KIDD (DISTANTLY) Hurry back !

SOUND TAVERN ~~BBB18893333~~ MUSIC FADES.

ANNE (IN A CALM, HARD VOICE) I want to speak to the governor.

OFFICER The guvnor, eh ? And what would you be wanting with the guvnor ? Your husband left ye ? Someone got ye drunk ? Come now, lass, the guvnor can't be bothered with

ANNE Tell the governor that I have information that will lead to the arrest of the pirate, William Kidd.

OFFICER William Kidd ! william kidd did ye say ? !

MUSIC QUICK BRIDGE TO

GOVERNOR So he's here in Boston, is he ? At the Golden eagle ? I know it well. A nest of cutthroats. You'll be rewarded well, lass. I've got 1000 guineas on his head and if the ~~BB~~ story's true and we get him --- it's all yours.

ANNE Governor, sir, I don't want the reward. Only the little pouch that's tied around his neck -- remember that. That's our bargain, sir -- you get Kidd -- I get the pouch.

GOVERNOR And it's a bargain I'll keep with pleasure, Miss. Sergeant ! Sergeant !

MUSIC TAVERN TUNE

SOUND OF TAVERN. LAUGHTER, CLINKING OF GLASSES.

SAILOR 1And you're going to get married, Kidd ? I wouldn't have believed it.

SAILOR 2 I won't believe it, until I see her. Where is she, Bill ?

KIDD Don't be impatient, man. She's coming. She's gone to get her Uncle wh's to give her away.

SAILOR Give her away ! What proppity has he in her ? (LAUGHTER)

SAILOR 1 Well, Bill, will ye take her out to sea with ye ?

KIDD That, I don't know. I'm kind of wanting to settle down --- might raise a family even.

SAILOR 2 You, Bill ? ! Haha ! Not you. You're a salt water man, Bill. When ye settle down it'll be six fathom deep.

KIDD Nay --- I'm weary of the sea and ~~the~~ pirate life. I've always hankered on living in pbase and quiet *for a little* before I die -- and a wife to share it with me.

SAILOR 1 Then here's to ye both, mill. May ye

SAILOR 3 Redcoats !!!

SOUND SUDDENLY HUSHED?

OFFICER No one move. This tavern is completely surrounded by his majesty's troops.William Kidd, you are under arrest. *Now, come quietly.*

(A PAUSE)

KIDD I'll come quietly when I'm dead !!!

SOUND THE PLACE SUDDENLY IN AN UPROAR WHICH FADES THOUGH

NARRATOR So they took Billy Kidd at that Golden place, where he fought with the fury of the pirate race, but they bound his arms and they threw him on a sloop -- To be delivered in England to the hangman's loop.

MUSIC HOLD BG.

NARRATOR Aye, ye cannot serve the devil and a woman, too, Though the woman may be the devil's shrew. But the queerest thing of the story was this,-- The troops never found that pouch of his.

Well, when Anne heard that, she forgot the reward And sailed to England on the first ship she could board , But the ship was delayed, and when she got there, Kidd was climbing up the purple stair.

A crowd had gathered to watch the sport, with Kidd so proud and his life so short,

And Anne fought madly to get through to bill,
Before they had carried out His Majesty's will....

(FADE)

SOUND

MURMUR OF CROWD

ANNE

Let me through ! Let me through !

SOUND

LOW MURMUR BG. PRIEST INTONING THE LAST RITES.

ANNE

William ! William !

KIDD

Anne ! Why, Anne, ye came all this way !

ANNE

William --- William -- one last thing -- before ye
die --- where's the map, William ? The map -- of
the treasure, William . Where is it ?

I love ye , William -- I...I'll always remember ye.

Tell me where the map is, William darling, tell me.

KIDD

Why, Anne, we can't enjoy the treasure now --- now
that I'm going on yonder -- Ye wouldn't want to
live on the fruits of me labour without me -- would
ye, Anne ?

ANNE

William, if ye love me like ye said ye did -- tell
me where it is --- please, William, please....

KIDD

Hahaha ! Alright, Anne. I'll tell ye Ready,
Hangman ?

HANGMEN

Aye, ready.

KIDD

Anne, 'tis with a friend, Anne, 'tis with a friendd ---
his name is his name is... *I can't seem to remember it.*

ANNE

Who, William).... ^{who...} what's his name ? !

KIDD

Now let me see, Anne....Ah, yes....His name is....

Ugh!

SOUND

CLATTER OF TRAP DOOR.

CROWD

MURMUR.

WOMAN 1

That's the end of him.

WOMAN 2

A good hanging.

WOMAN 3

Cheerful all the way, he was.

WOMAN 1

Just look at the horrid grin on his face !

WOMAN 2 But look ! the girl who was talking to him --
she's spitting in his face -- spitting in his face !

WOMAN 3 She must have known the man ; A real villain,
no doubt. Look ! She's half hysterical.

WOMAN 1 Aye -- there's no doubt that she was wronged by
him. Poor girl. He was well hung ... well hung.

(FADE)

MUSIC

OF SEA CHANTY UP BOLD. DOWN BEHIND

NARRATOR

Hahahahaha! ---And the gold's still there,
still there beneath the rusted spades and skull's
dull stare,

For Kidd let no man live who landed on the shore
Of ~~his~~^{that} Island, where he hid his store.....

Aye ...many a dead man's laughter echoes through the
caves

Of ~~the~~^{the} thousand headed Island, and the waves
Tell dead men's tales, but not of what befell
The treasure trove, buried now, with Anne and Kidd,
in Hell !

(A PAUSE)

MUSIC

SEA CHANTY TO END.....
