

Hullabaloo belay

- 1 Me father kept a boarding house
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
The boarding house was on the quay
hullabaloo-belay.
2. The boarding house was on the quay
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
The lodgers were nearly all at sea
hullabaloo-belay.
3. A flash young fellow called Shallo Brown
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
Followed me mother all round the town
hullabaloo-belay.
4. Me father said "young man, me boy"
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
To which he quickly made reply.
hullabaloo-belay.
5. Next day when Dad was in the Crown
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
Mother ran off with Shallo Brown
hullabaloo-belay.

6. My father nearly pined away
hullabaloo-belay
hullabaloo-belah-belay
When mother returned the following day!
hullabaloo-belay.

Notes

Based on shanty, song by S **Taylor Harris**, 1925.

[Exmouth Shantymen](#) wrote:

Appeared in a 1925 publication *Six Sea Chanties*, having been collected from a sailing-ship man who could remember only the first stanza and the chorus. Burl Ives recorded it in 1956.

[Lighter](#) on mudcat.org wrote:

British musician S. **Taylor Harris** was commissioned by Boosey & Hawkes to arrange a few sea songs for publication. [[Six Sea Shanties](#)]. The score appeared in 1925. This appears to have been Ives's ultimate source.

In the mid 50s, Taylor Harris wrote in the magazine *Sing Out!* that he'd collected **Hullabaloo Belay** from a sailing-ship man who could remember only the first stanza and the chorus. Facing a deadline, Taylor Harris decided to add some additional stanzas of his own invention. Thus the song as it is known today.

Hear it sung on [YouTube by Burl Ives](#).

Image from page 189 of "Poems" (1834)
by Samuel Rogers (1763-1855)

Illustrations by Thomas **Stottard** (1755-1834)
and J M W **Turner** (1775-1851)

via [Flickr: the Commons](#)

