

## Johnny Todd

1. Johnny Todd he took a notion  
For to cross the ocean wide,  
And he left his love behind him,  
Weeping on the Liverpool Side.

2. For a week she wept full sorely,  
Tore her hair and wrung her hands,  
'Til she met another sailor,  
Walking on the Liverpool sands.

3. "Why fair maid, are you a-weeping  
For your Johnny-gone-to-sea?  
If you wed with me tomorrow  
I will kind and constant be.

4. "I will buy you sheets and blankets,  
I'll buy you a wedding ring,  
You shall have a gilded cradle  
For to rock your baby in."

5. Johnny Todd came home from sailing,  
Sailing on the ocean wide,  
For to find his fair and false one  
Was another sailor's bride.

6. All young men who go a-sailing  
Or to fight the foreign foe,  
Never leave your love like Johnny -  
Marry her before you go.



*Howells, Chris, 2005 : Port of Liverpool Building*  
via [Wikimedia Commons](#) .

### Notes:

**Alternative Titles:** Johnny Todd.  
Also known as the Z-Cars theme or the  
Everton Football Club tune.

**Kidson, Frank, 1891, *A collection of  
traditional tunes:***

Johnny Todd is a child's rhyme and game,  
heard and seen played by Liverpool children.  
The air is somewhat pleasing, and the words  
appear old, though some blanks caused by the  
reciter's memory have had to be filled up.

It is a ring game, a circle with one person in  
the centre who then chooses the next to go in  
the centre.)

The song has been taken up by Everton  
Football Club.

### Notes on the words

**Liverpool side** - the Liverpool side of the  
Mersey, not the Birkenhead side.