

The Divers Wife
Joanna Newsom

e -----...-----|
B ---1-0-----1-0-----...-----|
G -2-----0---2-0-----0---2---2---0---...-----|
D -----2---2---2-0---2-----2-...-----|
A -0-----3-----3-----...-----|
E -----1-----...-----|

Am

The diver is my love

G

Am

G

and I am his, if I to be deceived

Fmaj7

who takes one breath above for eve-ry

Am

hour below the sea

Am

Who gave to me a jewel

G

Am

G

worth twice this woman s life, though it cost her less

Fmaj7

than laying at low tide to see

Am

her true love phosphoresce.

C

And in an infinite regress,

Gm

Dm

tell me why is the pain of birth

F

C

lighter borne than the pain of death?

G

F

I ain t saying I loved you first,

C

Bb

but I loved you best.

Am

I know we must abide

G

Am

G

each by the rules that bind us here:

Fmaj7

the divers and the sailors and

Am

the women on the pier.

Am

How do you choose your voice?

G

Am

G

How do you choose your name? How do you choose your life?

Fmaj7

How do you choose the time you must

Am

exhale and kick and rise?

C

And in an infinite capsize,

Gm

Dm

like a boat tearing down the coast,

F

C

double hulls bearing double masts.

G

F

I don't know if you loved me most,

C

Bb

but you loved me last.

Recall the word you gave

to count your way across the depths of this arid world,

where you will yoke the waves that lay

a bed of shining pearls.

I dream it every night:

the ringing of the pail, the motes of sand dislodged, the shucking, quick and bright

the twinned and cast off shells reveal

a single heart of white.

And in an infinite backslide,

ancient boulders sink past the west,

like a sword at the bearer's fall.

I don't say that I knew you best,

but did you know me at all?

A woman is alive, a woman is

alive. You do not take her from your side

An anchor on a stone, alone,

unfaceted and fine.

And never will I wed.

I'll hunt the pearl of death to the bottom of my life,

and ever hold my breath 'til I may be the diver's wife.

See how the infinite divides,

and the divers are not to blame

for the rift spanning distant shores.

You don't know my name,

but I know yours.