

**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.