

Walter de la Mare (1873-1956)

2 *The Silver Penny*

‘Sailorman, I ’ll give to you
My bright silver penny,
If out to sea you ’ll sail me
And my dear sister Jenny.’

‘Get in, young sir, I ’ll sail ye 5
And your dear sister Jenny,
But pay she shall her golden locks
Instead of your penny.’

They sail away, they sail away, 10
O fierce the winds blew!
The foam flew in clouds,
And dark the night grew!

And all the wild sea-water
Climbed steep into the boat;
Back to the shore again 15
Sail they will not.

Drowned is the sailorman,
Drowned is sweet Jenny,
And drowned in the deep sea
A bright silver penny. 20

1902

(From *Poems 1901 to 1918*. 2 vols. London: Constable
and Co. Ltd., 1920)