

Shallow Brown (trad.)

Fare thee well, my Juliana
Shallow, oh Shallow Brown
Fare thee well, my Juliana
Shallow, oh, Shallow Brown

I will put my gear in order
For the packet sails tomorrow

Oh, the packet sails tomorrow
And it fills my heart with sorrow

'Gonna sell me for a dollar
That great big Yankee dollar

Juliana, I truly love you
I'd never put myself above you

For you are my only treasure
And I love you still full measure

In the cradle lies me baby
I don't need no other lady

Cargo

I lay as stone in mourning's bed
My Juliana, my life, my aching
As ships along the coast do rock
My heart before me breaking

Oh, will your tears remember mine
Oh, will the heavens tremble
And will the years before us now
Bring dreams that only crumble
 How burns our shore, who tells this tale
 of life no longer human
 How led to ships and stacked below
 And we will remember them

They load the cargo piece by piece
Scarce eighteen inches wide
This cargo chained fast to the hold
This cargo, it is I

It is I who first to my mother came
It is I who brought my parents joy
It is I who lies here lost in grief
My Juliana, my Juliana

As to the new land sails this bird
But what's that sound that like rigging clangs
But deep in the hold is heard?
I cannot sleep, this stench of fear
I cannot wake to see
this vision . . . our baby laughing as
she reaches for a soft kiss from me

And now shouts from the rigging heard
Oh, America, brave landing
The clump of boots 'round capstan blind
Defies all understanding
It is we who stand so proud and black
It is we whose minds refuse to yield
It is we whose songs bring freedom's breath
To crushing work in planters' fields

Oh, Africa, my home, my pride
Your soul within me turns
This is your soil now between my hands
These are your tears that burn
My child, she grows now, and grows so strong
This vision I must see
She laughs, and from her mother runs
Reaching for a soft kiss from me

Oh, Juliana, my life, my bride
Your soul within me turns
This is our child within my arms
These are the tears that burn