

# Leave Her, Johnny

For acapella TTBB choir

Stan Hugill: "...its better-known function was that of airing grievances just prior to the completion of the voyage....many unprintable stanzas were sung, directed at the afterguard, the grub, and the owners. Bullen writes that: 'to sing it before the last day or so was almost tantamount to mutiny'."

The choir may stamp on beats 1 and 3 for all choruses, except for the pp chorus at b.56!

Arranged by  
MATT CLIFFORD SHARP

Traditional Sea Shanty

T1  
T2  
B1  
B2

8

[B1]

Leave her, John - ny, leave her.

Oh the times was hard and the wa - ges low,  
Oh the work was hard and the voy - age long,

5

[B1]

And it's time for us to leave her!

But now once more a - shore we'll go,  
The sea was high and the gales were strong,

9

**CHORUS**

Leave her, John - ny leave her! Oh (Oh) leave her, John - ny, leave her! For the

13

vo - yage is done and the winds don't blow, and it's time (time) for us to leave her.

## VERSE 2

17 T2

Oh the cap-tain's bad but the mate was worse,  
 Oh the cook's a drunk and the clerk is too, Leave her, John - ny, leave her.

21 T2 TO CHORUS

He would cut you down with a lash and a curse,  
 And the crew is four - teen men too few, And it's time for us to leave her!

## VERSE 3

25 T1

Oh a dol - lar a day is a ship boy's pay,  
 Oh it's pump or drown the old man said, Leave her, John - ny, leave her.

29 T1 TO CHORUS

To pump all night and haul all day,  
 Or else, by Christ, we'll all be dead, And it's time for us to leave her!

## VERSE 4

33

Leave her, John - ny, leave her.

B2

Oh the rats are gone and we the crew,  
 Oh wipe the deck and drop the sail,

CONTINUE

37

**B2**

And it's time for us to leave her!

It's\_ damned high time we\_ left 'er\_ too,  
For a night with a maid and a gal-lon of ale,

41

*pp*

Leave her, John - ny leave her! Oh\_ (Oh) leave her, John ny, leave her! For the

*pp*

45

vo-yage is done and the winds don't blow, And it's time (time) for us to leave her.

49

*ff*

Leave her, John ny, leave her! Leave her, John-ny, leave her! For the

*ff*

Leave her, John-ny, leave her, leave, Leave her for the

53

*rit.*, *Slower*

vo-yage is done and the winds don't blow,\_ And it's time for us to leave her!

**Verse 1: B1**

Oh the times was hard and the wages low (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
But now once more ashore we'll go (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

Oh the work was hard and the voyage long (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
The sea was high and the gales were strong. (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

**Chorus: All**

**Leave her, Johnny, leave her!**  
**Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her!**  
**For the voyage is done and the winds don't blow,**  
**And it's time for us to leave her!**

**Verse 2: T2**

Oh the captain's bad but the mate was worse (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
He would cut you down with a lash and a curse (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

Oh the cook's a drunk and the clerk is too (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
And the crew is 14 men too few (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

**CHORUS**

**Verse 3: T1**

Oh a dollar a day is a ship boy's pay (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
To pump all night and haul all day (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

Oh it's pump or drown, the old man said (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
Or else, by Christ, we'll all be dead. (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

**CHORUS**

**Verse 4: B2**

Oh the rats are gone and we the crew (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
It's damned high time we left 'er too (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

Oh wipe the deck and drop the sail (**Leave her, Johnny, leave her**)  
For a night with a maid and a gallon of ale (**And it's time for us to leave her!**)

**CHORUS PP (very quiet)**

**CHORUS VARIANT**