

The Mermaid's Song

Slow air

The Mermaid's Song: “Mermaids and mermen were both feared and loved...it appears to have been a fairly general belief that the caves on [Aberdeenshire's] rocky coast were the homes of mermaids...some old men remembered a mermaid pitching upon the bowsprit of a small vessel belonging to Peterhead, which was driven among the rocks near Slains Castle, and all hands perished save one man who bore the tidings to land.

The Shetland fisher folk [told of] mermen and mermaids...of surpassing beauty [and] limited supernatural powers.

...Caithness [has the] story of how a youth fell in love with a mermaid, and how she brought him gold, silver and jewels which she had taken from ships wrecked in the Pentland Firth. She enticed him to a cave near Duncansby Head, where he fell asleep. When he awoke he found himself enchained...” (Peter F. Anson, *Fisher Folk-Lore*, London 1965)