

The Shanty Attacker

Words Ian, Music Luke and trad. arr. Luke

Sneaks up. Dark street. Moon light. Nervous walker. Always man.
Old man. Dockland street. Stooped man... Who has felt the whipping
ocean in his face; the wind drew her map in the corners of his eyes
years ago. Long years ago...

Moon light. Home walk. Old man. Stagger route. Beer dance. Sway
tango. Docks glint. Reflected moon.

Like sliding down a deck it is easy for him to ease his feet down the
street's water. It is easy for him to miss the blade of the raised voice.

The shanty attacker. Hiding by the bus shelter. But waiting for no bus.
Haul away boys.

Long shanty. Long attack. Raised voices. Moon light. Endless verses.
Endless Hauling. Flailing Body. Fish flail. Whale tail. Flap body.
Shanty rising. Shanty falling.

'A death by shanty is a terrible death' Melville wrote towards the end
of his life, and he sang true. A murder by shanty involves meticulous
harmonic skill, endless choruses rising and falling like a knife might
rise and fall. And always one more verse. One more verse to make
the body twitch...