Unfortunate Miss Bailey

Words & Music: Traditional

E                      B7
A captain bold from Halifax, who dwelt in country quarters,
E                      B7
Seduced a maid who hanged herself one morning in her garters.
E                      B7
His wicked conscience smited him, he lost his stomach daily.
B7                      E
He took to drinking ratafia and thought upon Miss Bailey.

CHORUS:
E                  A                      E
Oh! Miss Bailey, unfortunate Miss Bailey!
E                  A                      E
Oh! Miss Bailey, unfortunate Miss Bailey!

One night while sleeping on his ship, the captain heard a banging,
He left his bed and went on deck, and saw Miss Bailey hanging.
His candle just at twelve o’clock began to burn quite palely.
And from the mast a ghost stepped down. Behold! It was Miss Bailey!

CHORUS:

“Away, Miss Bailey,” he implored, “You don’t affright me, really.”
“Dear Captain Smith,” the ghost replied, “you’ve used me ungenteely.
The coroner was hard on me, because I acted frailly,
And Parson Biggs won’t bury me, ‘though I’m a dead Miss Bailey.”

CHORUS:

You won't believe me when I say, the captain got soft-hearted.
He gave the ghost a five-pound note, with which she then departed.
"'Twill bribe the sexton for my grave, and so I leave thee gaily,
Oh bless you, wicked Captain Smith! Remember poor Miss Bailey.”

CHORUS: