

From Clare to the Southern Sky

Verse 1

I left the fields of Clare one dawn when mist lay on the stone,
The curlew cried above the bog, and I walked the road alone.
My mother's shawl was round me, and her blessing in my ear,
"Go find your fortune, child," she said, "and keep your heart sincere."

Verse 2

The ship was cold and crowded, yet the stars were kind and near,
And the waves sang lamentations that only I could hear.
Each night I dreamed of Ireland, of the hearth and turf-smoke grey,
Till the southern stars replaced them and the dawn broke gold one day.

Chorus

Oh, Clare lies far behind me, yet it whispers through the rain,
In the gum trees' sigh and ocean's cry, I hear its voice again.
I found a life in sunlight, where the wide horizons lie,
But my soul still drifts to Ireland beneath the southern sky.

Verse 3

In Sydney Town I laboured, in the heat and dust and din,
With the sweat upon my collar and the ache beneath my skin.
Yet the kindness of a stranger and the laughter shared at tea,
Made this foreign land less lonely as it slowly welcomed me.

Verse 4

I wrote home every Christmas, though the letters took forever,
And to make some conversation I told of work and weather.
But I never spoke of longing, nor the tears that sometimes came,
For the pride of Clare runs deep inside and I carried still its name.

Chorus

Oh, Clare lies far behind me, yet it whispers through the rain,
In the gum trees' sigh and ocean's cry, I hear its voice again.
I found a life in sunlight, where the wide horizons lie,
But my soul still drifts to Ireland beneath the southern sky.

Verse 5

Now the years have turned to silver, and the harbour lights grow dim,
And I walk beside the water where the seabirds wheel and skim.
I think of home at evening, when the wind begins to moan,
And I bless the road from Clare to here, the one that made me whole.

Final Chorus

Oh, Clare lies far behind me, yet it whispers through the rain,
In the gum trees' sigh and ocean's cry, I hear its voice again.
I found a life in sunlight, where the wide horizons lie,
And I carry Clare within me beneath the southern sky.