

The Penelopiad | Song Lyrics

1. The Jump Rope Song

DANCE: MAIDS (*while jumping ropes*)

we are the maids
the ones you killed
the ones you failed

we danced on air
our bare feet twitched
it was not fair

with every goddess, queen and bitch
from there to here
you scratched your itch

we did much less
than what you did
you judged us bad

you had the spear
you had the word
at your command

we scrubbed the blood
of our dead par-
amours from floors, from chairs

from stairs, from doors
we knelt in water
while you stared

at our bare feet
it was not fair
you licked our fear

it gave you pleasure
you raised your hand
you watched us fall

we danced on air
the ones you failed
the ones you killed

2. ONE from A Chorus Line (Marvin Hamlisch)

SONG: MAIDS and SUITORS SING

One singular sensation, every little step she takes
One thrilling combination, every move that she makes
One smile and suddenly nobody else will do
You know you'll never be lonely with you-know-who

One moment in her presence and you can forget the rest
For the girl is second best to none, son
Oooh! Sigh! Give her your attention
Do I really have to mention she's the one
One! One! One!

3. If I Were a Princess: All Maids

SONG: MELANTHO AND EUTERPE

If I was a princess, with silver and gold,
And loved by a hero, I'd never grow old:
Oh, if a young hero came a-marrying me,
I'd always be beautiful, happy, and free!

CALIOPE AND CLIIO

Then sail, my fine lady, on the billowing wave -
The water below is as dark as the grave,
And maybe you'll sink in your little blue boat-
It's hope, and hope only, that keeps us afloat.

POLY and ERATO

I fetch and I carry, I hear and obey.
It's 'Yes sir' and 'No ma'am' the hole bleeding day;
I smile and I nod with a tear in my eye,
I make the soft beds in which others do lie.

URANIA, TERPSI, THALIA

Oh gods and O prophets, please alter my life.
And let a young hero take me for his wife!
But no hero comes to me, early or late -
Hard work is my destiny, death is my fate!

ALL MAIDS

Then sail, my fine lady, on the billowing wave -
The water below is as dark as the grave,
And maybe you'll sink in your little blue boat-
It's hope, and hope only, that keeps us afloat.

4. Daddy Went to Troy: Maids (a cappella)

SONG: MAIDS

Daddy went to Troy.
He didn't take his darling boy.
But soon he will be back again,
With lots of slaves and golden toys -
Daddy went to Troy.

MAIDS (*in harmony*)

Daddy went to Troy.
He didn't take his darling boy.
But soon he will be back again,
With lots of slaves and golden toys -
Daddy went to Troy.

5. Many Rivers to Cross (Jimmy Cliff): All

Many rivers to cross
But I can't seem to find my way over
Wandering I am lost as I travel along
The white cliffs of Dover

PENELOPE

Many rivers to cross and it's only my will
That keeps me alive
I've been licked, pushed round for years
And I merely survive because of my pride

And this loneliness won't leave me along
It's such a drag to be on your own
My baby left me and he didn't say why
Well I guess I have to try

PENELOPE and MAIDS

I've got many rivers to cross but just where to begin
I'm playing for time
There'll be times I find myself thinking
Of committing some dreadful crime

Many rivers to cross
But I can't seem to find my way over
Wandering I am lost as I travel along
The White cliffs of Dover

Many rivers to cross and it's only my will
That keeps me alive
I've been licked, washed up for years
And I merely survive because of my pride..

6. Too Darn Hot (Cole Porter): Helen

It's too darn hot
It's too darn hot
I'd like to sup with my baby tonight
Refill the cup with my baby tonight
I'd like to sup with my baby tonight
Refill the cup with my baby tonight
But I ain't up to my baby tonight
'Cause it's too darn hot

It's too darn hot
It's too darn hot
I'd like to coo with my baby tonight
And pitch the woo with my baby tonight
I'd like to coo with my baby tonight
And pitch the woo with my baby tonight
But sister, you fight my baby tonight
'Cause it's too darn hot

According to the latest report, ev'ry average girl you know
Much prefers her lovey-dovey to court
When the temperature is low
But when the thermometer goes 'way up
And the weather is sizzling hot
Miss Troy for her boy is Not!

7. Weaving Song: Maids (To the tune of *Twist Ye Twine Ye*)

SONG: Part 1

Weaving, weaving, ever grieving,
While the trees are bending, sighing,
Sadly twining, every pining,
Weave a shroud for royal bones...

Weaving, grieving, interwinding,
While the waves are rising, falling,
Twisting, turning, ever yearning
For the one who's gone from home...

Poor, the Queen without a King here,
While the time goes passing slowly,
Softly praying, daily mourning,
Prisoned in her royal home...

Part 2 of same song

Weaving, grieving, out and in,
While our tangled web we spin.
Moon's above, and gone the sun,
Pick the threads out one by one;

Weaving, grieving, all deceiving,
Night undoes what day has done;
Weaving, grieving, out and in,
Night and secrecy help us win,
Never we'll finish what we've begun!
When will dear Odysseus come?

8. Dreamboats: Maids

SONG: MAIDS

Sleep is the only rest we get;
It's then we are at peace:
We do not have to mop the floor
And wipe away the grease.

MELANTHO

We are not chased around the hall
And tumbled in the dirt
By every greedy thug and lout
Who wants a slice of skirt.

And when we sleep we like to dream;
We dream we are at sea,
We sail the waves in golden boats,
So happy, clean and free.

In dreams we all are beautiful
In glossy crimson dresses;
We sleep with every man we love,
We shower them with kisses.

They fill our days with feasting,
We fill their nights with song,
We take them in our golden boats
And drift the whole year long.

And all is mirth and kindness,
There are no tears of pain;
For our decrees are merciful
Throughout our golden reign.

MAIDS

but then the morning wakes us up;
Once more we toil and slave,
And hoist our skirts at their command
For every prick and knave.

9. Sailor Song: Maids

SONG: ERATO

Oh, wily Odysseus, he set out from Troy,
With his boat full of loot and his heart full of joy,
for he was Athene's own shiny-eyed boy,
With his lies and his tricks and his thieving!

THALIA

To the Isle of the Dead then Odysseus did stray,
Filled a trench up with blood, held the spirits at bay,
Till he learned what Teiresias the seer had to say,
Odysseus, the artfullest dodger!

TERPSI

The Sirens' sweet singing then next he did brave,
They attempted to lure him to a feathery grave,
While tied to the mast he did rant and did rave,
But Odysseus alone learned their riddle!

URANIA

The whirlpool Charybdis did not our lad catch,
Nor snake-headed Scylla, she could not him snatch,
Then he ran the fell rocks that would grind you to scratch,
For their clashing he gave not a piddle!

CLIO

We men did a bad turn against his command,
When we ate the Sun's cattle, they sure tasted grand,
In a storm we all perished, but our Captain reached land,
On the isle of the goddess Calypso.

CALIOPE

After seven long years there of kissing and woo,
He escaped on a raft that drove to and fro,
Till fair Nausicaa's maids that the laundry did do,
Found him bare on the beach - he did drip so!

POLY

Then he told his adventures and laid to his store
A hundred disasters and sufferings galore,
for no one can tell what the Fates have in store,
Not Odysseus, the master disguiser.

ALL MAIDS

So a health to our Captain, where'er he may be,
Whether walking the earth or adrift on the sea,
For he's not down in Hades, unlike all of we-
And we leave you not any the wiser!

10. Knocking on Heaven's Door (Bob Dylan): Maids

Mama, take this body off of me
Cause I can't use it anymore
It's gettin' dark, too dark to see
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Mama, put my body in to the ground
Cause I can't use it anymore
There's a long black cloud is comin' on down
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door