

There was a girl who loved the sea.
Each day she walked upon the beach
And tried to sate her curiosity
About what lurked beyond the dark tide's reach.
One day upon the stillest water,
She saw a horse of brilliant white.
"Come to me, O human daughter,
Together we'll ride through day and night."
The creature's call lured her to the tide,
But her father's words did give her pause,
'Never accept a kelpie's ride,
Lest you find yourself within its jaws!'
"I shall not ride you, O wicked horse!
For if I do I'll surely drown!"
She spoke those words, then changed her course,
And headed swiftly towards the town.
But such sorrow filled her heart,
That to the spirit she had been so cruel.
And so next morn, she did depart,
With a basket of her mother's tools.
With sigiled shell and woven grass,
She made a bracelet for her arm,
And to her wrist she tied it fast,
A talisman to keep her from harm.
She wandered til she found the beast,
And presenting her enchanted ward,
She offered it a different feast;
As much fish as she could afford.
"Hear me, O spirit of the sea,
My kinsfolk would see you swiftly dead.

*But I present an off'ring to thee,
And extend to you my friendship instead.
Do we not both draw life from the sea?
Do we not both have love for the tide?
So please accept this gift from me,
And grant me the pleasure of one safe ride.”
The kelpie stood, and considered the gift,
Its beautiful illusion cast aside.
It crossed the water, its movements swift,
And offered up its back to ride.*

*There was a girl who loved the sea.
And shared her love with one kelpie.
Together they rode, once enemies,
But now united as girl and steed.*