

The Rebel Girl Original tune and lyrics were written by the activist songwriter Joe Hill. This song was written the week before he was shot by a firing squad. He wrote it about Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. I started singing Rebel Girl about myself in my own funeral reform activism, rebelling against what my culture dedicated a funeral has to be. Then I realized the real “Original Rebel Girl” of my generations’ Home Funeral movement is truly Lisa Carlson. So this song identifies her as my inspiration.

[Verse 1]

There are women of many descriptions
In this cruel world, as everyone knows
Most are buying expensive funerals
They don’t know— where else— to go—
For it’s our culture that teaches mourners
whose high spending makes the mind swirl
But there’s a truth-telling lady, and she’s the Rebel Girl.

[Chorus]

That’s the Rebel Girl, the Rebel Girl!
To the culture-worn, she’s a strength in this world
From Maine to Florida, you’ll see
Her fighting for you and for me
With a courage, and pride,
She’s there by your side.
She’s unequalled anywhere.
And I’m proud to fight for freedom, with the Rebel Girl.

[Verse 2]

Yes, her hands may be tired from writing
And her story like none you will find
For the heart in her bosom is beating
For the truth that inspires the mind
So the grafters of funerals are trembling
When her clever defiance she hurls
For the finest truth-telling lady, is the Rebel Girl.

I, Joyce Mitchell, give my permission to print, share, alter and sing these original lyrics.