

La Fanette (Jacques Brel)

Nous étions deux amis et Fanette
m'aimait.
La plage était déserte et dormait sous
juillet.
Si elles s'en souviennent les vagues
vous diront
Combien pour la Fanette j'ai chanté de
chansons.
Faut dire
Faut dire qu'elle était belle
Comme une perle d'eau
Faut dire qu'elle était belle
Et je ne suis pas beau
Faut dire
Faut dire qu'elle était brune
Tant la dune était blonde
Et tenant l'autre et l'une
Moi je tenais le monde
Faut dire
Faut dire que j'étais fou
De croire à tout cela
Je le croyais à nous
Je la croyais à moi
Faut dire
Qu'on ne nous apprend pas
A se méfier de tout

Nous étions deux amis et Fanette
m'aimait.
La plage était déserte et mentait sous
juillet.

English Translation (D. Smith)

We were two friends and Fanette loved
me
The beach was deserted and sleeping in
[lit. under] July
If they remember, the waves will tell
you
How many songs I sang for [the]
Fanette.
Must say
Must say that she was beautiful
Like a pearl of water
Must say that she was beautiful
And I am not handsome.
Must say,
Must say that she had brown hair
As [brown as] the dune was blonde
And holding one and the other
[Me,] I held the world.
Must say
Must say that I was crazy
To believe in all that
I believed it was ours,
I believed she was mine.
Must say
That we are not taught
To beware of everything.

We were two friends and Fanette loved
me.
The beach was deserted and telling lies
in July.

Fanette (Eric Blau/Mort Shuman)

We were two friends in love, Fanette
and I
The empty beach was warm and sleepy
in July
If the sea recalls, the waves would
surely say
I sang so many songs for Fanette each
day.
She was
She was as beautiful
As rainbows in the sky,
She was so beautiful and
Not at all am I.
She was,
She was there on the sand
As gold as she was brown,
And when I held her hand
I held the world around.
I was
I was so crazy then
To think that it could be
I thought that I was hers,
I believed she was for me.
But we
We never learn...
Until it's too late.

We were two friends in love, Fanette
and I
The empty beach was warm, deceitful
in July.

Si elles s'en souviennent les vagues
vous diront
Comment pour la Fanette s'arrêta la
chanson
Faut dire
Faut dire qu'en sortant
D'une vague mourante
Je les vis s'en allant
Comme amant et amante
Faut dire
Faut dire qu'ils ont ri
Quand ils m'ont vu pleurer
Faut dire qu'ils ont chanté
Quand je les ai maudits
Faut dire
Que c'est bien ce jour-là
Qu'ils ont nagé si loin
Qu'ils ont nagé si bien
Qu'on ne les revit pas
Faut dire
Qu'on ne nous apprend pas
Mais parlons d'autre chose

Nous étions deux amis et Fanette
l'aimait
La plage est déserte et pleure sous
juillet
Et le soir quelquefois, quand les vagues
s'arrêtent
J'entends comme une voix
J'entends c'est la Fanette.

If they remember, the waves will tell
you
How, for Fanette, the song stopped.

Must say
Must say that in leaving
By a dying wave
I saw them going away
As lover and beloved.
Must say
Must say that they laughed
When they saw me cry.
Must say that they sang
When I cursed them.
Must say
That it was that very day
They swam so far away
They swam so well
They were never seen again.
Must say
That we are not taught...
But let's talk about something else.

We were two friends and Fanette loved
him.
The beach is deserted and crying in
July
And in the evening sometimes, when
the waves stop
I hear, like a voice
I hear, it is [the] Fanette.

If the sea recalls the waves would
surely say
I stopped singing my song for Fanette
that day.
I saw
I saw them on and on
Enfolded by the sea
They looked so much in love
They never looked at me.
They saw
They saw me and they laughed
They stood and watched me cry
And sang their little song
Against the summer sky.
You see,
I'd like to tell you how
They swam so well that day
They swam so far away
You'll never see them now.
Oh, no.
No, no, no, no, we never learn...
But let's talk of something else.

We were never two friends, Fanette and
I.
The empty streets are cold and crying
in July
But when the waves are still, I still can
hear it yet
I hear a little song.
I hear Fanette.