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THE HERMIT OF SHARK TOOTH SHOAL

Oh the north count-ree  
Is a hard count-ree,  
And it mothers a bloody brood,  
And its icy armshold, hidden charm  
For the greedy, the sinful, the lewd.  
And strong men rust  
From the gold and the lust  
That sears the northland's soul.  
But the wickedest born  
From the pole to the Horn,  
~~Is~~ the hermit of Shark Tooth Shoal.

Now Jacob Cain  
Was ~~the~~ hermit's name  
And he fell for the gold and the muck  
~~Long~~ he learned to pray  
With the hogs and the hay  
On a farm near Kiokuk,--  
Till he read a tale of illicit kale  
And licker and women wild  
That drained his soul and his morals clean,  
As clean as a soup tureen.

He was just a boy  
And the parson's joy  
In the days of his pious youth  
Ere he cast a smirch  
On the village church  
By betraying a girl named Ruth.  
Then he left his home  
For hell-cursed Nome  
On Alaska's icy shores  
And he learned to ~~smirch~~ ~~and to~~ drink and to curse --  
~~smirch~~  
Till the rum dripped from his pores.

For fear of their lives  
Or because of their wives  
He was shunned by the best of his pals,  
An outcast he  
From camaraderie  
Of all but the wild animules.  
So he bought him a hole  
On Shark Tooth Shoal  
On the Straits of the Bering Sea  
And he lived by himself  
On a ~~xxxi~~ sea lion's shelf  
In lonely iniquity.

Now far away,  
In Kiokuk, Iowa,  
A lonely maid did fight  
To remove the smirch  
From the village church  
By bringing the heathen light.  
And the eld~~est~~ declared  
That all would be squared  
If she carried the holy word  
From her Kiokuk home  
To that hell-town Nome,  
And save those sinful birds.

So two weeks later, she took a freighter  
For that sin-cursed land near the Pole  
But heaven aint made  
For a lass that's betrayed--  
And she was wrecked on Shark Tooth Shoal!

He was hunting a seal  
For his evening meal--  
(He handled a mean harpoon)--  
When he found at his feet,  
Not something to eat,  
But a maid in a frozen swoon,  
Whom he dragged ~~by her hair~~ to his lair  
By her dripping hair  
And he rubbed her knees with gin!!  
To his great surprise  
She opened her eyes--  
And revealed his original sin!

His long red beard  
Grew stiff and wierd  
Till it looked like a chestnut beryā,  
And her bright hair fell  
Like a flame from hell  
Down the back of that hapless girl.  
And there in that hole  
On Shark Tooth Shoal,  
This helpless maid he re-betrayed,  
And wrecked her immortal soul!  
Then he rowed her ashore with a broken oar  
And he sold her to Dan McGrew,  
For a hot egg-nog and a husky dog,  
As rascals are wont to do!

Now ruthless Ruth is a maid uncouth  
With rouge-stained cheeks and lips,  
Who sings rough songs to the sailing throngs  
That come on the sealing ships.  
For a rouge-stained kiss  
From that infamous miss  
They'll give a seal-sleeek fur  
Or perhaps a sable if they are able  
It all the same to her!!

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