

STRIKE THE BELL

Verse 1

Out on the poop deck, walkin' about
Second mate Hawkins is so sturdy and so stout
What he is thinkin' of, he doesn't know himself
We wish that he would hurry up and strike, strike the bell

Chorus

Strike the bell, second mate
Let us go below
Look away to windward
You can see it's gonna blow
Look at the glass
You can see that it has fell
We wish that you would hurry up and strike, strike the bell

Verse 2

Down in the engine room, workin' on the pumps
Leftie's gettin' oily and he's ready for his bunk
He cannot find the spanner and he swears like merry hell
Wishin' that the second mate would strike, strike the bell

Chorus

Verse 3

Up on the main deck, haulin' on the rope
The brown boys look to windward and they are not filled with hope
They see on the horizon, headin' in to swell
Wishin' that the second mate would strike, strike the bell

Chorus

Verse 4

Up in the wheelhouse, Jason leads the band
Holdin' a squeezebox in his cold and weary hands
Plays a tune to tell us, 'We're sailin' into hell'
Wishin' that the second mate would strike, strike the bell

Chorus

Verse 5

Forward in the foc'sle head, keepin' sharp lookout
Johnny Mac is bawlin' in his brood Northern shout
"The lights are burnin' brightly, sir, everything is well"
He's wishin' that the second mate would strike, strike the bell

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Chorus

Verse 6

Down on the mess deck, Toby's out of bed
Ready for the dog watch with a tricorn on his head
Thinks about Demelza, makes his poor heart swell
Hopin' that the second mate will strike, strike the bell

Chorus

Verse 7

Up on the main deck, Captain Cleave does stand
On the hunt for mermaids with a spyglass in his hand
What he is thinkin' of, we all know very well
He's dreamin' more of chasin' tail than strikin' the bell

Chorus x2