

The Fairy Lover
by Susa Morgan Black

Donnell stood on the breakin' shore,
His kilt wet-wrapped around
Braw hips and shoulders,
His harp in a seal-tight bag.

He leaned into the summer breeze,
Long copper hair lifting off his back,
As he took the land in a long stride,
And knelt to kiss the Earth.

Seven years,
Had he been in another world.
And at long last,
He had come home to his people
On the Isle of Skye.

Behind his broad back,
The wild summer moon formed
A radiant silvery path to Faerie
On the shimmering lake.

And under the waters,
A Selkie wept.
She wept silver tears,
For the man she loved and lost.
A harper, singer, warrior, and lover, was he,
Donnell, the Lord of Earth and Skye*

Sadly, she turned in the water,
And dove into the silver moon-trail,
Which drew her from the world
Of man, back to the Land of Sidhe.

"Back from fishing so soon, my Lord?"
Asked his clansman, surprised.
"Collin! I have been gone for seven years,
And you seem not to have aged a day!"

"It's in your cups you've been, my Lord!"
Chided Collin with a wink.
"Which is why you've caught no fish.
You left an hour ago with harp and pole.
And I see you left your pole behind."

The long years passed,
And Donnell took no wife.
Strong muscles turned slack,
And copper turned to white.

His harping was unworldly,
And he enchanted all who came
To hear the wondrous tale,
Of his sojourn in the Other World.

And at long last,
He came to the end of his days,
And asked one boon of his people.

"Leave me on the edge of the shore,
With my tartan for a shroud.
Wrap my harp in a sealskin bag, for
I'll die when the moon is full." he vowed.

Thus it was done, on his dying day.
They left him there, body and soul.
And when they came back
The very next morn, he was gone,
And in his place, his fishing pole.

*An island off the west coast Scotland, traditional territory of the Clan Donald. Once an independant kingdom, where the MacDonald's were Lords of the Isles.

(OK, I admit it. This poem was inspired by the scene where Liam Neeson emerges naked from the loch in the movie "Rob Roy")

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