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The Emmy Rose

A Poem by William Falcetano

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The Emmy Rose

BY WILLIAM FALCETANO

I read it today in *The Gloucester Times*,
My local newspaper, which I read online,
The latest news about the Emmy Rose,
Which sank off the coast of Cape Cod,
Taking her crew of four to the bottom with her.
How this happened only God knows.

She was 82 feet from stem to stern —
A stout, rugged trawler based in Portland, Maine.
She seemed firm
But she sank without even a distress call all the same.

They set out on a 7 day voyage
In cold November seas —
A desperate way to make a living.
But frowning Neptune would not be appeased,
His mood was ungiving,
And by his cruel and pitiless decree
The livelihood they sought
Turned into their drowning at sea.

They were in search of groundfish, such as haddock,
A catch they intended to bring back
To Fisherman's Wharf in Gloucester.
Instead, the ancient family name of
PORPER will be inscribed again
Onto the Fisherman's Memorial Cenotaph
To join his ancestors William A. (1890) and John A. (1911)
In a long line of intrepid mariners
Who were sent by an untimely fate direct to Heaven.

The Insurance Company paid out the loss,
A total of \$960,000 for four lives
Cut short and tossed
Like bait into water 800 feet deep.
Fishing is a business after all
And where there is business there is money to be made
And also money to be paid to widows and orphans.

So the next time you sit down to a nice
Meal of baked cod and saffron rice
Take a moment to thank God for those who
Braved the seas,
Those who dare risk limb and life,
To bring this tasty, wholesome fare
To you and to me.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William Falcetano is a retired professor of philosophy. He lives in Gloucester where he enjoys the pleasures of boating and endures its hardships. We are grateful to Bill for volunteering for the Gloucester400+ and helping us gather poetry and plan poetry readings in recognition of 400+ years of history in Gloucester.