

# Cane Killed Abel

Words by seaman/folksinger Merv Lilley, with a tune by singer/songwriter Chris Kempster (1933–2004). Kempster's role in the Australian folk movement was a significant pioneering one – as a singer, songwriter, composer, collector and teacher.

Leader **D** **A7** **D**

1 was a cane cut - - ter but now I'm at sea.

5 Chorus **A7**

Stool it and top it and load it my boys.

8 Leader **D** **A7** **D**

Once Cane \_\_\_\_\_ killed A - - bel but it won't kill me.

13 Chorus **A7** **D**

Stool it and top it and load it my boys.

There was an old seaman who sang this refrain.  
He stood at the bar and he filled up again.

I worked very hard until I went to sea.  
Once Cane killed Abel but it won't kill me.

I rise every morning about half past three.  
To cook my own breakfast, my dinner and tea.

This cutting of cane, it isn't much fun.  
They melt it all down and make Bundaberg rum.

I was a cane cutter but now I'm at sea.  
Once Cane killed Abel but it won't kill me.