IT GUARDS AND KEEPS

Cisco Houston, the artist of the month in our friend Gary Lust's series of pickin' parties, recorded this song around 1944 – the year I was born. After slogging through a long thread about the song's origins on mudcat.org, I find that it was recorded as early as 1929, and may be traditional. Or not. I have transcribed Doc Watson's version of it from his Grammy-winning album **Riding the Midnight Train**, which you can listen to here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pi6U8vu30ko or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html   You can also hear Cisco's 1944 version at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvIDYQ7i_i0

WHAT DOES THE DEEP SEA SAY

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C
She stood on the beach alone
        F                C
And gazed at the misty blue
          F                            C
Saying, "Sea, as you hold him to your breast,
                     G        C
does he mention my name to you?"
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Oh, where is my sailor boy?
Where is my sailor boy?
He sleeps at the bottom of the deep blue sea
And he can't come back to me.

CHORUS:
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C
Oh, what does the deep sea say?
F                        C
What does the deep sea say?
            G
It moans, it groans,
    F
It splashes and it foams,
        C        G     C
And it rolls on its weary way.
```

Oh please tell me deep blue sea
Is he sleeping peacefully
For the winds from the North
Are blowing icy cold.
Can you keep him warm for me?

If only my grieving soul
Some token of love should find
If only the waves could show me where he sleeps
Then I'd leave this world behind.

CHORUS

A beautiful rose one day
I placed on the crest of a wave
And I said take it please
And let it settle home
Upon his watery grave.

The driftwood I've watched in vain
And my rose never came back again
So waves take another
Message to my love
Tell him I'll meet him above.

Oh, what does the deep sea say?
What does the deep sea say?
It guards and keeps
My lover where he sleeps
And it rolls on its weary way.