



# Long Black Veil

Music and Lyrics by Danny Dill and Marijohn Wilkin

Performed by Joan Baez, Live at Newport

[LISTEN](#)

JOAN BAEZ (b 1941) is an American singer, songwriter, musician, and activist. Her contemporary folk music often includes songs of protest and social justice. Baez has performed publicly for over 60 years, releasing more than 30 albums.

## ABOUT THE SONG

"Long Black Veil" is a 1959 country ballad written by Danny Dill and Marijohn Wilkin, originally recorded by Lefty Frizzell.

It is told from the point of view of a man falsely accused of murder and executed. He refuses to provide an alibi, since on the night of the murder he was having an extramarital affair with his best friend's wife, and would rather die and take their secret to his grave than admit the truth. The chorus describes the woman's mourning visits to his gravesite, wearing a long black veil and enduring a wailing wind.

In 2019, Frizzell's version of "Long Black Veil" was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

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4/4 Time

# LONG BLACK VEIL

Original Key C

(Danny Dill & Marijon Wilkin / 1959) - Joan Baez

## INTRO {C,2m}

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- 1) Ten Years Ago, On A Cold Dark Night  
Someone Was Killed, 'neath The Town Hall Light  
The People Who Saw, They All Agreed  
That The Slayer Who Ran, Looked A Lot Like Me
  
  - 2) The Judge Said "Son, What Is Your Alibi?  
If You Were Somewhere's Else, Then You Won't Have To Die"  
I Spoke Not A Word, Though It Meant My Life  
For I'd Been In The Arms, Of My Best Friend's Wife
- 

## CHORUS

*She Walks... These Hills... In A Long... Black Veil...  
Visits, My Grave... When The Night... Winds Wail...  
Nobody Knows... Nobody Sees...  
No...body Knows... But Me...*

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- 3) The Scaffold Is High, Eternity Near  
She Stands In The Crowd, She Sheds Not A Tear  
Sometimes At Night, When The Cold Winds Moan  
In A Long Black Veil, She Cries O'er My Bones
- 

## CHORUS

**TAG**     {F} *Nobody* {G} *Knows... But* {C,4m} *Me...*  
              {F} *Nobody* {G} *Knows... But* {C,2m} *Me...*

(Danny Dill &amp; Marijon Wilkin/ 1959) - Joan Baez

**INTRO {C,2m}**

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- 1) {C,4m} Ten Years Ago... On A Cold Dark Night...  
 {G,2m} Someone Was Killed... 'neath The  
 {F} Town Hall {C,2m} Light..... The  
 {C,2m} People Who Saw {C,2m} They All Agreed... That The  
 {G,2m} Slayer... Who Ran Looked A {F} Lot Like {C,4m} Me...
- 2) The {C,4m} Judge Said "Son, What Is Your Alibi?... If  
 {G,2m} You Were Somewhere's Else... Then You  
 {F} Won't Have To {C,2m} Die"... I  
 {C,2m} Spoke... Not A Word... Though It  
 {C,2m} Meant My Life... For  
 {G,2m} I'd Been... In The Arms... Of My {F} Best... Friend's  
 {C,2m} Wife...
- 

CHORUS

*She {F} Walks... These {C} Hills... In A {F} Long... Black  
 {C,2m} Veil... {F} Visits, My {C} Grave... When The  
 {F} Night... Winds {C,2m} Wail...  
 {C,2m} Nobody Knows... {F} Nobody {C} Sees...  
 {F} No...body {G} Knows... But {C,4m} Me...*

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- 3) The {C,4m} Scaffold... Is High... Eternity Near... She  
 {G,2m} Stands... In The Crowd... She {F} Sheds... Not A  
 {C,2m} Tear... {C,2m} Sometimes At Night...  
 When The {C,2m} Cold Winds Moan... In A  
 {G,2m} Long... Black Veil...She Cries {F} O'er My {C,2m} Bones...
- 

CHORUS

**TAG** {F} Nobody {G} Knows... But {C,4m} Me...  
 {F} Nobody {G} Knows... But {C,2m} Me...