

St. James Infirmary

Slow - Bluesy

American - English
The Unfortunate Rake

Em Bm Em G C B Em Bm
I went down to the St. James In - firm' ry. To see my ba - by there. She was laid on a long white
Em B7 Em Em Bm
ta - ble. So sweet, so cold so fair. Let her go. Let her go. God
Em G C B Em Bm
bless her. Where e - ver she may be. She may search the wide world
Em B7
o - ver. But she'll ne - ver find a man like me.

Ethnomusicologists say that "St. James Infirmary" is derived from the English folk song "The Unfortunate Rake", as is another American song, "Streets of Laredo". The "St. James Infirmary" would then be St. James Hospital in London, torn down in 1532 to build the St. James Palace.

It was made popular by Louis Armstrong in the 1920s, and has been sung, played and recorded by a great number of people since then, including New Orleans jazz bands.. There are many sets of lyrics, some quite different from each other.