

The Navigator's Tale

By Matt Kenrick

Making the Cut 2025

Original key of G

Capo 5 (singing key)

Intro- 4/4 time

G////D////Em////C////G////D////C////G////

(Verse 1)

G D G
I was but a lad when I took up the spade,
Em C
A pick in me hand and a ditch to be made,
G D Em D C
The foreman he told me, "Dig deep, dig true,"
G D G
And the water will follow, long after you.

(Chorus)

C G Am---D
So, dig, boys, dig, through the rock and the clay,
G Em C G
For a shilling a week and a bed made of hay,
C D Em G C (A7 in 3rd chorus)
The boats will glide where the hard men fell,
G D G G-Dsus4-C-G
Was it worth it?—only time will tell.

(Verse 2)

G Dsus4 G
Me hands are like leather, me back's fit to break,
Em C G
I've sweat in the tunnels, I've froze by the lake,
G Em~Em7 C G C G
I've seen good men buried, I've watched rivers change,
A A D D
But progress don't listen, and toil don't complain.

(Chorus)

(Verse 3)

Em Dsus4 G
The gentry will ride by, they'll praise what they see,
Em Em C C
But they'll never know the blood was shed here by me,
G D Em C
The bridges, the lock gates, the cuts through the land,
Am D D
Were carved by the strong with a shovel in hand.

(Chorus)

C G Am---D
So, dig, boys, dig, through the rock and the clay,
G Em C G
For a shilling a week and a bed made of hay,
C D Em G A7
The boats will glide where the hard men fell,
G D G G-Dsus4-C-G
Was it worth it?—only time will tell.

(Verse 4)

Em D G D G
I dream of the day when I lay down me tools,
Em C C
When me bones rest easy by still water pools,
G Em D C G Am7
But the call of the work is the life that I know,
G G Dsus4 D D
And I'll die with a pick axe, still striking the stone.

(Chorus)

C G A D
So, dig, boys, dig, through the rock and the clay,
G D Em D C-G C G
For the world moves on when we fade away,
C D Em Em7 A A7
The boats will glide where the hard men fell,
G D G C G Fin.
Was it worth it?—only time will tell.

