

# The Decemberists, The Crane Wife 1 and 2

[1]

It was a cold night  
And the snow lay around  
I pulled my coat tight  
Against the falling down  
And the sun was all  
And the sun was all down  
And the sun was all  
And the sun was all down  
I am a poor man  
I haven't wealth nor fame  
I have my two hands  
And a house to my name  
And the winter's so  
And the winter's so long  
And the winter's so  
And the winter's so long  
And all the stars were crashing 'round  
As I laid eyes on what I'd found  
It was a white crane  
It was a helpless thing  
Upon a red stain  
With an arrow in its wing  
And it called and cried  
And it called and cried so  
And it called and cried  
And it called and cried so  
And all the stars were crashing 'round  
As I laid eyes on what I'd found  
My crane wife, my crane wife  
My crane wife, my crane wife  
Now I helped her  
And I dressed her wounds  
And how I held her  
Beneath the rising moon  
And she stood to fly  
And she stood to fly away  
And she stood to fly  
She stood to fly away  
And all the stars were crashing 'round  
As I laid eyes on what I'd found  
My crane wife, my crane wife  
My crane wife, my crane wife

[2]

My crane wife arrived at my door in the moonlight  
All star bright and tongue-tied, I took her in  
We were married and bells rang sweet for our wedding  
And our bedding was ready, we fell in  
Sound the keening bell  
And see it's painted red  
Soft as fontenelle  
The feathers in the thread  
And all I ever meant to do was to keep you  
My crane wife  
My crane wife  
My crane wife  
We were poorly, our fortunes fading hourly  
And how she avowed me, she could bring it back  
But I was greedy, I was vain and I forced her to weaving  
On a cold loom, in a closed room with down and wool  
Sound the keening bell  
And see it's painted red  
Soft as fontenelle  
The feathers in the thread

And all I ever meant to do was to keep you  
My crane wife  
My crane wife  
There's a bend in the wind and it rakes at my heart  
There is blood in the thread and it rakes at my heart  
It rakes at my heart