

A Dear John Letter

Class:

No.:

Name:

<http://engsongs.3cc.cc/>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dear_John_letter

Performer: Skeeter Davis 1965

Dear John,

Oh, how I hate to write

Dear John,

I must let you know tonight

That my love for you has died away

like grass upon the lawn

And tonight I wed another,

Dear John.

(Recitation)

I was overseas in battle

When the postman came to me

He handed me a letter.

And I was as happy as I could be

Cause the fighting was all over,

And the battles they'd all be won

But then I opened up that letter,

And it stated "Dear John"

Won't you please send back my picture?

My husband wants it now.

When I tell you who I'm wedding,

You won't care, do you, anyhow?

And it hurts me so to tell you

That my love for you is gone

But tonight I wed your brother, dear John.

Some Information

While the exact origins of the phrase are unknown, it is commonly believed to have been coined by Americans during World War II. Large numbers of American troops were stationed overseas for many months or years, and as time passed many of their wives or girlfriends decided to begin a relationship with a new man rather than wait for their old one to return.

As letters to servicemen from wives or girlfriends back home would typically contain affectionate language, a serviceman receiving a note beginning with a curt "Dear John" (as opposed to the expected "Dear Johnny", "My dearest John", or simply "Darling", for example) would instantly be aware of the letter's purpose.

There are a number of theories on why the name John is used rather than any other. John was a common name in America at the time the term was coined. John is also the name used in many other terms that refer to an anonymous man or men, such as "John Doe" or "John Smith".

The song was popular during the Korean War and popularized by Jean Shepard and Ferlin Husky in 1953 as well as Red Sovine. It was re-introduced by Pat Boone in the 60's. This tune is described as one of the "lost hits of the 50's! It's only been 50 years and now they have the words!

這首歌據說是源自一段真實的故事。女孩因為男友在海軍服役，被分派至海外駐守，在時空阻隔之下，女孩愛上另一位男孩，而原先的男友一直被蒙在鼓裡，等到他看到這封信，女友早已琵琶別抱，生米煮成熟飯。

這個故事，使得 A dear John letter 成為「絕交信」的代名詞，比較齊全的英漢字典中可以查到相關的說明。如果有女孩說：I'm gonna write a dear John letter. 意思是說她準備要寫封信和男友分手。

在 A dear John letter 裡還有另一個涵意。那個女孩其實是嫁給了男主角的哥哥，就是那個旁白的最後一句裡說的 Tonight I wed another—Dear John。也就是說她的確是嫁給她的 Dear John，只不過是 Big John 男主角的哥哥而已，所以 Tonight I wed another Dear John，也可以翻成—今晚我嫁給我另一個親愛的約翰。