

# Molly Malone: A Brief History

Many have heard the name Molly Malone or seen her bronze statue on Grafton Street in Dublin. She represents an old, mysterious story set in Dublin, Ireland, that has firmly cemented itself within the Irish culture.



The legend goes that Molly was a beautiful young girl who worked as a fishmonger until she died suddenly of a fever. After her death, the story says her ghost began haunting the streets of Dublin.

Whether you believe the tale or not, Molly Malone is worth learning about for the fascinating ways she lives on in the culture of Ireland.

## Who is Molly Malone?

Molly Malone is a figure from Irish folklore who became one of the most well-known symbols of Dublin. She is often called the “tart with the cart” and is said to haunt the streets of Dublin to this day.

While talk of Molly Malone in Ireland has continued through the generations, there is no clear answer as to whether or not she was a real person. The debate continues as to whether Molly’s story is fact or fiction.

## What is Molly Malone Famous for?

The stories of Molly Malone in Dublin have gained international fame. However, she is most famously known for the song Sweet Molly Malone. Many refer to this song as “the unofficial anthem of Dublin.” It tells the story of Molly’s life and death and has been adapted and performed by many artists over the years.

Arguably, the Molly Malone song has remained so popular because it captures the spirit of Dublin. It tells the story of a working-class woman who dies young, but lives on indefinitely through lively cultural traditions.

One way the story continues is through Molly Malone Day. This is an annual event in Dublin on June 13, honoring Molly and her iconic song. The celebrations include a parade, live music, and street performers.

## Sweet Molly Malone

In Dublin's Fair City  
Where the girls are so pretty  
I first set my eyes  
on sweet Molly Malone  
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow  
Through streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive o!



### *Chorus*

Alive, alive o! Alive, alive o!  
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive o!

She was a fishmonger  
But sure 'twas no wonder  
For so were her father and mother before  
And they each wheeled their barrow  
Through streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive o!

### *Chorus*

She died of a fever  
And no one could save her  
And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone  
But her ghost wheels her barrow

Through streets broad and narrow  
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive o!