

The Hero Sadie Black
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There were hundreds of stories, some told and some not
In 19 and 13's Great Storm.
So many boats on the lakes grounded or lost,
So many would never come home.
But an unlikely hero to some who came back
Was a woman named Sadie Black.

The Howard M. Hanna Jr, near the tip of Lake Huron
Rode into a strong winter storm.
The boat was pounded by the seas and the snow
And went to ground on the Port Austin shoal.
 The Dining and Cook's rooms were washed overboard
 The cooks rode a wave to the Engine Room.
 The Hanna and her lifeboats were covered with ice
 And hurricane winds were a'blowin'.

Chorus: Anyone can be a hero if you keep your cool
 When storms could hold you back.
 Just remember the story of the Hanna's little cook,
 An unlikely hero was Sadie Black.

Sadie Black was a cook on the Howard M. Hanna
Her husband was the steward on board.
She was only 5-foot-one, she was small and thin,
When the Great Storm around them roared.
 The aft crew in the galley were huddled.
 And the lake water 'round their feet pooled.
 But Sadie Black worked in the water waste-deep
 Through it all she kept her cool.

Sunday night became Tuesday. Sadie Black, her work not done.
She kept the cook fire going.
She provided hot coffee and food for the crew
While the world 'round them rocked and groaned.
 She refused to go first on the rescue boat.
 She waited for her turn in line.
 When she arrived with the surfmen on the Port Austin shore
 It was clear to all she was dying.

So the crew passed the hat to buy her a ticket
To the Port Huron hospital by train.
She went back on the boats and she lived a long life
She was a hero forgotten by time.