

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Bonnie Lass o' Benachie

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Once I loved a lady fair  
She was a beauty I do declare  
The fairest flower in the north country  
The bonnie lass o' Benachie

She was an heir o' house and lan'  
And I was but a poor man's son  
It was her birth and high degree  
That parted my true love and me

Great knights and squires from a distance came  
To court this fair and lovely dame  
But all their offers proved in vain  
For none her favor could obtain

But when her parents came to know  
That I did love their daughter so  
They judasly betrayed me  
For keeping o' her company

Tw'as at Auld Rayne that I was ta'en  
A prisoner for Lady Jean  
In fetters strong then I was bound  
And carried on to Aberdeen

I was embarked at the shore  
Never to see my darling more  
In Germany a soldier to be  
All for the lass o' Benachie

When I arrived in foreign lands  
A letter from my true love came  
With her respects in each degree  
Signed by the lass o' Benachie

The answer which to her I sent  
Never to my true love went  
For her cruel parents told her then  
That in foreign lands I was slain

Which made this lady weep full sore  
To think she'd never meet me more

It caused her weep most bitterly  
Such tidings from high Germany

Her father said, "Your tear refrain  
To weep for him it is in vain  
I have a better match for thee  
To enjoy the lands o' Benachie"

"He was the lover of my youth  
In pledge he had my faith and troth  
I've made a vow, I'll wed with none  
Since my true love is dead and gone"

Oh, she's put on the robes o' green  
Which was most comely to be seen  
Oh had he been a crowned king  
This lady fair might been his queen

Oh every finger she put a ring  
On her mid finger she put three  
And she is on to high Germany  
In hopes her true lover to see

When she came to high Germany  
By fortune her lover she did see  
Upon a lofty rampart wall  
As he was standing sentry

The first she met was the Colonel then  
And he asked her most courteously  
From whence she came and where she was boun'  
Her name and from what country

"From fair Scotland," she said, "I came  
In hopes my lover true to see  
And now I hear he's a grenadier  
Into your lordship's company."

"Wha's thy lover's name, my comely dame  
Oh lady fair come tell me than  
For it's a pity that thy love should be  
In the station of a single man"

"Willie Knight is my lover's name  
All this hardship's suffered for me  
Tho' it should cost me thousands ten  
A single man nae mair he'll be"

Willie Knight was called then

His own true love once more to see  
And when he saw her well fared face  
The tears o' joy did blin' his e'e

Wi' kisses sweet the lovers met  
Most joyfully as we are told  
She changed his dress from the worsted lace  
To the crimson scarlet trimmed with gold

But when her parents came to know  
That their daughter abroad was gone  
They sent a letter on express  
To call these two fond lovers home

To Willie went a free discharge  
All for the sake o' Lady Jean  
And now they live in sweet content  
Into the shire o' Aberdeen

refers to incident in 1770 involving heiress Miss Erskine  
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SOF