

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Clyde's Water (3)

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Willie stood at the stable door  
A-leaning ower his steed  
A-looking at his white fingers  
'Til his nose began to bleed

"O bring some corn to my horse  
And gie my young man meat  
And I'll awa to Maggie's bower  
I'll be there afore she sleeps"

"O Willie, Willie dinna gang  
It's sair against my will  
You've the deepest part in the Clyde to cross  
And it's there that ye will droon"

"The horse that I'm to ride upon  
Cost me twice thirty pounds  
And I'll put my trust in my ain horse heels  
And he'll carry me safe and sound"

So he rade o'er hills and rade doon dales  
And doon yon dowie den  
But the rush that rose in Clyde's Water  
Would have feared a hundred men

"O Clydie, Clydie, rollin' Clyde  
Your waters are wondrous strong  
Mak' me a wreck as I come back  
But spare me as I gang"

"O Maggie, Maggie, Maggie dear  
O rise and let me in  
My boots are full of Clyde's water  
And I'm shivering to the skin"

My stables are full of horses  
My sheds are full of hay  
My beds are full of gentlemen  
That wouldna leave till day"

Maggie wakened in the morning  
And to her mother she ran

Says, "I dreamed that Willie was here last night  
And I wouldna let him in"

So he rade o'er hills and rade doon dales  
And doon yon dowie den  
But the rush that rose in Clyde's water  
Took Willie's cane frae him

Leanin' o'er his saddle bows  
To catch his cane through force  
The rush that rose in Clyde's water  
Took Willie frae his horse

Willie's brother stands on the bank  
Now how can Willie droon?  
"O turn ye tae your high horse heid  
And he'll learn ye how to swim"

Child #216

Collected from John Strachan in Elgin, Moray, Scotland by John Lomax in 1951  
Recorded on Rounder Alan Lomax Collection: Classic Ballads of Britain and Ireland, vol 2

In other versions of this ballad, subtitled The Mother's Malison, it is more obvious that the two mothers would rather see their children dead than together. Here his mother is merely urging him to stay home safe (he curses himself in verse 6) and it is not clear whether her mother is the speaker of that rather interesting verse 8. [SOF]

SOF