

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

## Lady Isabel and the Elf-Knight

Lady Isabel and the Elf-Knight

1 FAIR lady Isabel sits in her bower sewing,

Aye as he gowans grow gay

There she heard an elf-knight blawing his horn.

The first morning in May

2 'If I had yen horn that I hear blawing,

And yen elf-knight to sleep in my bosom.'

3 This maiden had scarcely these words spoken,

Till in at her window the elf-knight has luppen.

4 'It's a very strange matter, fair maiden,' said he,

'I canna blaw my horn but ye call on me.

5 'But will ye go to yon greenwood side?

If ye canna gang, I will cause you to ride.'

6 He leapt on a horse, and she on another,

And they rode on to the greenwood together.

7 'Light down, light down, lady Isabel,' said he,

'We are come to the place where ye are to die.'

8 'Hae mercy, hae mercy, kind sir, on me,

Till ance my dear father and mother I see.'

9 'Seven king's-daughters here hae I slain,

And ye shall be the eight o them.'

10 'O sit down a while, lay your head on my knee,

That we may hae some rest before that I die.'

11 She stroakd him sae fast, the nearer he did creep,

Wi a sma charm she lulld him fast asleep.

12 Wi his ain sword-belt sae fast as she ban him,

Wi his ain dag-durk sae sair as she dang him.

13 'If seven king's-daughters here ye hae slain,

Lye ye here, a husband to them a'.'

Child #4

Buchan's Ballads of the North of Scotland, I, 22. b. die.

Motherwell's MS., p. 563.

SOF

OCT98