

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## The Slaughter of the Laird of Mellerstain

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...  
As they came in by the Eden side  
They heard a lady lamenting sair  
Bewailing the time she was a bride.

...  
A stately youth of blude and lane  
...  
John Hately, the laird of Mellerstain.

"Cowdenknowes, had ye nae lack?  
And Earlstoun, had ye nae shame?  
Ye took him away beside my back  
But ye never saw tae bring him hame"

And she has lookit to Fieldiesha  
So has she through Yirdandstane  
She lookit to Earlstoun, and she saw the fans,  
But he's coming hame by West Gordon.

And she staggerd and she stood

...  
...  
...  
"...  
... wude  
How can I keep my wits  
When I look on my husband's blood?"

"Had we been men as we are women  
And been at his back when he was slain  
It should a been tauld for mony a lang year  
The slaughter of the laird of Mellerstain."

Child #230

This incomplete copy is all that Child found.

The murder occurred in 1603.

SOF

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