

Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

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Silver Dagger 2

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Young men an' maidens, pay attention
To these here lines I'm a-goin' to tell,
They are the truth, if ever spoken,
About a young an' beautiful girl.

A young man courted a handsome lady,
He loved her more than he loved his life;
He oftentimes made her the solemn promise
That she should be his lawful wife.

But when his parents come to know this,
They strove to part them night an' day.
"Oh son, oh son, don't be so foolish,
She is too pore," they would oftentimes say.

He fell upon his knees before them,
Sayin', "Father, mother, pity me,
Don't take from me my precious jewel,
For she is all the world to me."

An' when the lady come to know this,
She quick resolved what she would do;
She wandered forth from the busy city,
Its love an' pleasure she no more knew.

She wandered down by the flowin' river,
For three long days in a deep despair;
She told her friends farewell forever,
An' then for death she did prepare.

She gazed a moment up to heaven,
Wherein her soul should find its rest;
She then drew out the silver dagger
An' pierced it through her snow-white breast .

The young man at the roadside near her,
He thought he heard his true love cry;
He run around as one distracted,
"Oh love, I fear you're a-goin' to die."

He then picked up the bloody weapon,

An' pierced it through his own true heart:
Oh, let this be a woeful warnin',
To all that would true lovers part.

A double coffin was directed,
Their hands placed on each others' breast:
An' now the lovers lie a-sleepin'
Together in eternal rest.

Note: Not to be confused with "Drowsy Sleeper" ballads, which are also called "Silver Dagger". One of the high points in my folkie experience was hearing Ellen Stekert do a Pete-Seeger-type Mob singalong of this, which reached its climax with an impassioned "Let us take our silver daggers, And plunge them etc." RG

From Ozark Folksongs, Randolph
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