

Tam Lin

Am Dm

1. O — I for -bid you, maid -ens all, That wear gold in your hair, To

[Dm] Em Dm

come or go by Car - ter - haugh, For young Tam Lin is there.

There's none that goes by Carterhaugh
 But they leave him a wad,
 Either their rings, or green mantles,
 Or else their maidenhead.

Janet has kilted her green skirt
 A little above her knee,
 And she has braided her yellow hair
 A little above her brow,
 And she's away to Carterhaugh
 As fast as she can go.

When she came to Carterhaugh
 Tam Lin was in a spell,
 But there she found his steed standing,
 But away was himself.

She had not pulled a double rose,
 A rose but only two,
 Till upon then started young Tam Lin,
 Says, Lady, thou's pull no more.

Why pulleth thou the rose, Janet,
 And why breaks thou the wand?
 Or why comes thou to Carterhaugh
 Withoutten my command?

~ "Carterhaugh, it is my own,
 My daddy gave it me,
 I'll come and go by Carterhaugh,
 And ask not leave from thee."

Janet has kilted her green skirt
 A little above her knee,
 And she has braided her yellow hair
 A little above her brow,
 And she is to her father's hall,
 As fast as she can hie.

Four and twenty ladies fair
Were playing at the ball,
And out then came the fair Janet,
The flower among them all.

Four and twenty ladies fair
Were playing at the chess,
And out then came the fair Janet,
As green as any glass.

Out then spake an old grey knight,
Lay oer the castle wall,
And says, Alas, fair Janet, for thee,
But we'll be blamed all.

"Hold your tongue, ye old fac'd knight,
Some ill death may ye die!
Father my bairn on whom I will,
I'll father none on thee."

Out then spak her father dear,
And he spak meek and mild,
"And ever alas, sweet Janet," he says,
"I think thou gaest wi child."

"If that I gae wi child, father,
Mysel maun bear the blame,
There's neer a laird about your hall,
Shall get the bairn's name.

"If my love were an earthly knight,
As he's an elfin grey,
I wad not gie my own true-love
For no lord that ye hae.

"The steed that my true love rides on
Is lighter than the wind,
With silver he is shod before,
With burning gold behind."

Janet has kilted her green skirt
A little above her knee,
And she has braided her yellow hair
A little above her brow,
And she's away to Carterhaugh
As fast as she can hie.

When she came to Carterhaugh,
Tam Lin was in a spell,
And there she found his steed standing,
But away was himself.

She had na pu'd a double rose,
A rose but only twa,
Till up then started young Tam Lin,
Says, Lady, thou pu's nae mae.

"Why pu's thou the rose, Janet,
 Amang the groves sae green,
 And a' to kill the bonny babe
 That we gat us between?"

"O tell me, tell me, Tam Lin," she says,
 "For's sake that died on tree,
 If eer ye was in holy chapel,
 Or christendom did see?"

"Roxbrugh he was my grandfather,
 Took me with him to bide
 And ance it fell upon a day
 That wae did me betide.

"And ance it fell upon a day
 A cauld day and a snell,
 When we were frae the hunting come,
 That frae my horse I fell,
 The Queen o' Fairies she caught me,
 In yon green hill do dwell.

"And pleasant is the fairy land,
 But, an eerie tale to tell,
 Ay at the end of seven years,
 We pay a tiend to hell,
 I am sae fair and fu o flesh,
 I'm feard it be mysel.

"But the night is Halloween, lady,
 The morn is Hallowday,
 Then win me, win me, an ye will,
 For weel I wat ye may.

"Just at the mirk and midnight hour
 The fairy folk will ride,
 And they that wad their true-love win,
 At Miles Cross they maun bide."

"But how shall I thee ken, Tam Lin,
 Or how my true-love know,
 Amang sa mony unco knights,
 The like I never saw?"

"O first let pass the black, lady,
 And syne let pass the brown,
 But quickly run to the milk-white steed,
 Pu ye his rider down.

"For I'll ride on the milk-white steed,
 And ay nearest the town,
 Because I was an earthly knight
 They gie me that renown.

"My right hand will be gloved, lady,
My left hand will be bare,
Cockt up shall my bonnet be,
And kaimed down shall my hair,
And thae's the takens I gie thee,
Nae doubt I will be there.

"They'll turn me in your arms, lady,
Into an esk and adder,
But hold me fast, and fear me not,
I am your bairn's father.

"They'll turn me to a bear sae grim,
And then a lion bold,
But hold me fast, and fear me not,
And ye shall love your child.

"Again they'll turn me in your arms
To a red het gand of airn,
But hold me fast, and fear me not,
I'll do you nae harm.

"And last they'll turn me in your arms
Into the burning glead,
Then throw me into well water,
O throw me in with speed.

"And then I'll be your ain true-love,
I'll turn a naked knight,
Then cover me wi your green mantle,
And hide me out o sight."

Gloomy, gloomy was the night,
And eerie was the way,
As fair Jenny in her green mantle
To Miles Cross she did gae.

At the mirk and midnight hour
She heard the bridles sing,
She was as glad at that
As any earthly thing.

First she let the black pass by,
And syne she let the brown,
But quickly she ran to the milk-white steed,
And pu'd the rider down.

Sae weel she minded what he did say,
And young Tam Lin did win,
Syne covered him wi her green mantle,
As blythe's a bird in spring

Out then spak the Queen o Fairies,
Out of a bush o broom,
"Them that has gotten young Tam Lin
Has gotten a stately-groom."

Out then spak the Queen o Fairies,
And an angry woman was she,
"Shame betide her ill-far'd face,
And an ill death may she die,
For she's taen awa the bonniest knight
In a' my companie.

"But had I kend, Tam Lin," said she,
"What now this night I see,
I wad hae taen out thy twa grey een,
And put in twa een o tree."

<http://tam-lin.org/music/index.html>