

THE LADY IN THE EAST

Performed by: Bride Judge

There was a lady in the east,
And her age it being scarce twenty,
For she had sweethearts of the best,
Of dukes and squires plenty.
She did have sweethearts of the best,
Who dearly doted on her,
But she admired her father's clerk,
More than those men of honour.

She did admire her father's clerk,
And for him she being intended,
And if kind fortune favoured her,
With him she'd dwell contented.

And as she walked the hall one day,
When her father chanced to meet her,
'Are you going to throw yourself away,
You fond young foolish creature?
Are you going to throw yourself away,
Without either birth or breeding?
Not one pound portion will I give you,
If this is your proceeding.'

She threw herself on her bending knees,
Saying 'Father spare me pleasure,
I do adore my Jimmy dear,
More than your earthly treasures.
I do adore my Jimmy dear,
And for him I am intended,
And if kind fortune favours me,
With him I'll dwell contented.'

There was a table in the hall,
With a loaded pistol lay on it,
And through this fair one's snowy white chest,
Her father did present it.
When the father see what he had done,
And the crime he had committed,
He wrang his hands and tore his hair,
And went like one that was distracted.

The next came in was her mother dear,
And the corpse she stood a viewing,
A fainting fit came on her quick,
Which proved her mother's ruin.

The next came in was her Jimmy dear,
And his lily-white hands a ringing.
He kissed his fair one's snowy white chest,
Just where the blood was spilling.
Saying 'Why'd you serve my darling so,
Oh why were you so cruel?
Why didn't you leave the blame on me,
And spare to me my jewel?'

He took a pen knife in his hand,
Saying 'I'll stay here no longer,
I'll cut the tender thread of life,
And with my love I'll wander.'
They both were buried in one grave,
Like all true lovers laying,
May the heavens above look down on us,
And keep us from those trials.