

## Tam Lin

lyrics: traditional

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O I forbid you maidens all  
That wear gold in your hair  
To come or go by Carterhaugh  
For young Tam Lin is there

There's none that goes by Carterhaugh  
That they leave him a toll  
Either their rings or verdant cloaks  
For he won't leave them whole

*Jenny has tucked up her skirt  
A little above knee-high  
And Jenny has pulled up her hair  
To show off her neck so white  
And she's away to Carterhaugh  
As fast as she can ride*

When she came to Carterhaugh  
Tam Lin was at the well  
And there she found his steed standing  
But away was himself

She had not pulled a double rose  
A double rose she tore  
Till up then started young Tam Lin  
Says, "Lady, thou pulls no more

Why pull's thou the rose, Jenny,  
And why's thou break the wand?  
And why comes thou to Carterhaugh  
Without'n my command"?

"Carterhaugh it is my own  
My father gave it to me  
I'll come and go by Carterhaugh  
And ask no leave of thee".

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

Four and twenty ladies fair  
Adorned in jewels and glass  
And out then came the fairy Jenny  
As green as summer grass

Out then spoke an old grey knight  
Within the castle wall  
And says, "Alas, Fairy Jenny for thee  
But we'll be blamed for all".

"Hold your tongue you old-faced knight  
Some ill death fall on thee  
I'll Father my babes on whom I will  
But you'll father none on me"

Out then spoke her father dear  
And he spoke meek and mild  
And says, "alas, sweet Jenny,  
I think thou art with child".

"If I am with child, father  
Myself, I'll bear the blame  
There's ne'er a lord about your hall  
Shall get the baby's name

"If my love were an earthly knight  
As he's an elfin grey  
I would not give my own true love  
For any lord here today"

"The steed that my true-love rides on  
Is lighter than the wind  
With silver shoes  
and burning gold behind"

When she came to Carterhaugh  
Tam Lin was at the well  
And there she found his steed standing  
But away was himself

She had not pulled a double rose  
A double rose she tore  
Till up then started young Tam Lin  
Says, "Lady, thou pulls no more"

"Why thou pulls thou the rose, oh Jenny?  
Among the grove so green  
For to kill the bonny babe  
That we'll have us between?"

"O tell me, tell me, young Tam Lin  
For Him that died on the tree  
If ever you were in holy church  
Or Christendom did see?"

“Roxburgh he was my grandfather  
Took me with him to bide  
And once it fell upon a day  
That woe did me betide

And once it fell upon a day  
As round the cold wind swelled  
When we were from the hunting come  
That from my horse I fell.  
The Queen the of Fairies caught me  
In yon green hill do dwell.

And pleasant is the fairy land  
But an eerie tale.  
Ay, at the end of seven years,  
We pay a tithe to Hell.  
I am so fair and full of flesh  
I fear it be myself.

But the night is Halloween,  
The morn is Hallowday  
Then win me, win me, if you can  
And spirit me away.

At the dark and midnight hour  
The fairy folk will ride  
And if you hope to rescue me  
At Miles Cross you must bide”.

“But how shall I see you, dear Tam Lin,  
Oh how my true-love know,  
Among so many armored knights,  
The like I never saw”?

“Oh first let pass the black pony  
Then let pass the brown  
Quickly run to the milk-white steed  
Pull that rider down.

My right hand will be gloved my lady  
And the left will be bare  
I will push my helmet back  
And you will see my hair  
And when my horse comes round  
You must pull me down

And then you must hold me tight, my lady  
And do not be afraid  
They’ll turn me into an asp and adder  
But my soul will remain

They'll turn me into a bear's sharp claws  
And then a lion's roar  
But hold me fast and fear me not  
And you shall have me forever more

They'll turn me into an eagle, don't be scared  
They'll turn me into a wolf but I won't bite you,  
Next a burning coal you'll have to carry  
And then I will become a man, and we can marry".

Gloomy, gloomy was the night  
Upon that Hallowday  
As Jenny in her verdant cloak  
To Miles Cross made her way

At the dark and midnight hour  
She heard the bridles ring  
She was glad to hear that sound  
Her heart began to sing

First she let the black pass by  
Then she let the brown  
Quickly she ran to the milk-white steed  
And pulled the rider down.

So well she did what he had said  
And young Tam Lin did win  
She covered him with her verdant cloak  
And kissed the man within.

Out then spoke the Queen of Fairies  
An angry curse she lay  
Upon fair Jenny of the woods  
On New Year's Hallowday.

"Seven years Tam Lin has dwelled  
With us beneath the hill  
By seven years his time has come  
To pay a tithe to Hell

Shame betide her ill-fared face  
An ill death fall on she  
Whose taken away the bonniest knight  
In all my company.

But had I known, Tam Lin,  
What now this night I see  
I would have taken out your eyes  
And put in two eyes of tree"