

Child (Ballad) Abuse - Words rearranged and mangled by Merav Hoffman and Batya Wittenberg, from traditional sources. (This is all Margaret Middleton's fault)

(To the tune of the "Bonnie Earl of Moray")

O ye heilan's and ye lowlan's
O where hae ye been?
They have slain the Earl of Moray
All for the Fairie Queen
And he was a braw and gallant
And he played at the ball
And out come the fair Janet
The flower among them all

O it was a handsome soldier
Come ridin' o'er the lea
And he took with him the fair Janet
And they rode down to the sea

(switch to the tune of "The Great Selkie")

They were wed there on the seashore
And a fine young gunner I'm sure was he
And the very first shot that he did shoot
Slew the Earl of Moray -- And the Great Selkie!

And for it was a holiday
In the summer of the year
Young Matty Groves to the sea did go
With a cold six-pack of beer

M: "Now I know that's not right. It's not period!"
B: "Oh, that's okay, it's an Appalachian version."
M: "Oh, okay."

(switch to the tune of "Matty Groves")

And Janet braided her yellow hair
A little aboon her bree
And said to Matty, "Come on in,
My husband's off at sea."

"O I can't come in and I won't come in,
I won't come to your bed
For I know we're in a ballad here
And I'm sure to wind up dead."

And Janet advanced upon him
So he took to his heels and ran
And when he reached the water's edge
He took off his shoes and swam

(Switch to the tune of "Battle of New Orleans")

And he swam through the breakers and he swam through the combers
And he swam to the harbor where the selkies wouldn't go ...

B: "Sorry about that."

M: "No you're not."

B: "No, I'm really not."

M: "So what's the next line? Swam so fast the gunner couldn't shoot him?"

B: "Funny you should mention the gunner."

M: "Oh dear."

(Switch to the tune of "Sir Patrick Spens")

For the gunner was with Sir Patrick Spens
When he came o'er the Sea
And with them was Queen Eleanor
And also King Henry.

(Switch to the tune of "Queen Eleanor's Confession")

Queen Eleanor was a sick woman
And afraid that she would die ...

B: "But that's not part of this story."

M: "Speaking of sick women though ..."

B: "Oh dear."

(Switch back to the tune of "Matty Groves")

The very first shot that he did shoot
It hurt young Matty sore
And Janet climbed aboard the ship
A stomping on the floor.

(Switch to the tune of "King Henry")

Some meat, some meat,
Ye King Henry
Some meat ya'll bring ta me,
Go and skin the great Selkie
And bring his meat to me!

B: "Ewww!"

M: "I did mention the sick women?"

(Switch back to the tune of "Queen Eleanor's Confession")

The very first shot King Henry shot
It hurt the gunner sore
And then Matty shot a bunch more times
Just to make quite sure.

And Janet did as much for him
As any widow may
She'll sit and weep upon his grave
For twelvemonth and a day

(Switch to the tune of "All Around My Hat")

And all around her hat she will wear the green willow
All around her hat while she's sitting on her duff
And if anyone should ask her the reason why she's wearing it
"It's because I'm in a ballad, and it's gone on long enough!"

© Merav Hoffman and Batya Wittenberg