

Lady Maisry

♩ = 116

2. Oh mo — -ther, mo - ther, make — my — bed and — make it soft — and —
white, that I may lay me down on a
soft — bed of down — to — see whe - ther I can — sleep.

1. 'O Mother, O mother, make up my bed
And lay my milk-white sheet
That I might lay down on the flowers of gold
For to see whether I can sleep.'
2. 'O send for my sister's little boy,
My sister's eldest son,
That he might go and tell unto my lord,
I'll be dead before he do come.'
3. The first two miles this little boy walked,
The next two miles he ran.
He ran till he come to the broad water side,
When he fell on his breast and he swam.
4. As soon as he got to my lord's house,
My lord was just at meat
'If thou didst but know what I'm come to tell,
Not a mouthful more would you eat' etc
5. He met the Lord all in his park
He met the Lord there sitting at meat.
'If thou didst know but the news I have brought
Not another bit thou wouldst eat.'
6. 'O is my high park's wall falling down?
O is my gates overthrown?
'O no, but your own true love is going for to die
She will die, o before thee does come.'
7. 'O saddle me my little white steed
That I might ride right away
And the time that I kiss her cherry, cherry cheek
O before they are turned into clay.'

8. O my lady she died on the Saturday
Twelve o'clock at noon
O my lord died the Sunday following one
O before evening prayer was done.

9. O my lord he was buried in the large chancel
And my lady was buried in the choir
And out my lord oh there sprang a damask rose
And of my lady a sweet briar.

10. They both did grow both stout and tall
Until they couldn't grow any higher
So they both grew into a true lover's know
And the rose wrapped around the sweet briar.

Source: Sung by Mrs Nightingale, Didbrook. Collected by James Madison Carpenter between 1927 and 1935.

Notes: Carpenter noted a different tune for the same song from Mrs Nightingale's husband, Arthur.
Verses 2-4 from Mrs Nightingale and the remainder from a Hampshire version.

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