

Cruel Mother.

As she was a wal - king her fa - ther's walk aye oh, As she was a - wal - king her
fa - ther's walk she saw two pre - tty ba - bies play - ing the ball. Lay me down me
di - lly di - lly down - wards. Down by the green - wood side - - o!

She leaned her back against the oak, aye oh
She leaned her back against the oak
First it bent and then it broke.
Lay me down, etc

[She leaned her back agin the stile, aye oh,
She leaned her back agin the stile;
Then she thought it was my child,
Lay me down, etc]

[She took a penknife long and sharp, aye oh,
She took a penknife long and sharp;
She pierced the two pretty babes to the heart.
Lay me down, etc]

[She threwed the babes a long ways off, aye oh,
She throwed the babes a long ways off;
The more she throwed them the blood dripped off.
Lay me down, etc]

As she was a walking her father's walk, aye oh,
As she was a walking her father's walk,
She saw two pretty babies playing the ball.
Lay me down, etc

She said pretty babies if you was mine, aye oh.
She said pretty babes if you was mine,
I'd dress you in such silken fine.
Lay me down, etc

They said dear mother when we was youn, aye oh.
You took a penknife long and sharp,
And pierced we two pretty babies to our heart.
Lay me down, etc

Source: Sung by Danny Brazil, Staverton. Collected by Mike Yates, Gwilym and Carol Davies 19 February 1979.

Notes: Verses in brackets from versions collected by Peter Shephard from Danny and other Brazil family members 1960s.

©Gloucestershire Traditions