

Lord Lovel



1. Lord Lov-el he stood at his own cas-tle gate, All on a milk-white steed ____



And out came La - dy Na - ncy Bell, And she wished him, Lord Lo-vel God speed, God speed



And she wished him, Lord Lo-vel God speed.

2. "Oh where are you going, Lord Lovel?" she cried

"Oh where are you going?" cried she.

"I'm going, sweet Lady Nancy Bell

Strange countries for to see, to see

Strange countries for to see."

3. "When will you come back, Lord Lovel?" she cried

"When will you come back?" cried she

"In a year or two or three at the most

And I'll return to my Lady Nancy, Nancy

I'll return to my Lady Nancy."

4. He hadn't been gone but a year and one day

Strange countries for to see

When all at once came into his mind

'I'll return to my Lady Nancy, Nancy

I'll return to my Lady Nancy.'

5. He mounted on his milk-white steed

And rode to London town

And there he saw a funeral

And the people were weeping around, around

And the people were weeping around.

6. "Oh, what is the matter?" Lord Lovel he said.

"Now, what is the matter?" said he

"The lord's lady is dead", an old woman said

"And some called her Lady Nancy, -cy, -cy

And some called her lady Nancy."

7. Then he ordered the grave to be opened wide

And the shroud to be turned down

And there he kissed her clay-cold lips

'Til the tears came trickeling down, down, down

'Til the tears came trickeling down.

8. Lady Nancy died as it might be today
Lord Lovel he died as tomorrow
Lady Nancy died out of pure grief
And Lord Lovel he died out of sorrow, sorrow.
Lord Lovel he died out of sorrow.

9. Lady Nancy was laid in the body of the church,
Lord Lovel was laid in the choir
And out of her bosom grew a red rose
Out of Lord Lovel's a briar, briar, briar,
Out of Lord Lovel's a briar.

10. They grew and they grew to the church steeple tower
'Til they could grow no higher
And there they entwined of a true lover's knot
For all true lovers to admire, mire, mire
For all true lovers to admire.

Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath. Collected by Peter Kennedy 1952.

Notes: Verses 1-5 from Emily Bishop. Remaining verses from another Gloucestershire version.

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