

The Old Riverside

As I strolled out one May morn - ing, It was down by the old riv - er side ____

There I met a pre - tty ____ fair ____ young maid, She was pac - - ing by ____ my side

2. I asked her if she would take a walk
Down by the old riverside
'And there we would set and talk a while
I'd make you my lawful wife.'
3. 'No, kind sir, to get married to you
My age it is too young'
'For the younger you are more better you is
More fitter you are for me
As I could say in my old days
That I married my wife a maid.'
4. He took her to his father's house
His lawful bride to be
They lay there all that long night
Till daylight did-a appear
The young man he rose and put on his clothes
And said 'Fare you well my dear.'
5. 'This is not the promise you made unto me
Down by the old riverside
You promised that you would marry me
And make me your lawful bride.'
6. 'If I promised to marry you
It was only to try your will
Now it's you go home to your father's house
And there you cry your fill
You can tell 'em all what I've done to you
It was done by your own good will.'
7. 'Do you think I'd go home to my father's house
To take him shame and disgrace?
I would rather go by the old riverside
And sleep in a lonesome place.'
8. He caught her by her lily-white hand
He kissed her both cheek and her chin
He took her down by the old riverside
And he gently pushed her in.

9. 'Oh there she goes and away she flows
She's floating down with the tide
In the room of laying in a watery grave
She had of rights to've bin my bride'

10. 'Now it's I'll sail away to another foreign part
Where some other girl will take my eye
And there's nobody shall know the deed I have done
To the girl I left behind.'

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Source: Danny Brazil at Staverton. Collected by Gwilym Davies December 1977.