

The Outlandish Knight



An out-land-ish knight _ came from the north-west, and he _ came woo-ing to me. He

(a) Variant



pro-mised to take me un - to the north land, and there he would ma _ rry me.

(a) Variant



2. 'Go fetch me some of your father's gold
And some of your mother's fee,
And two of the best nags out of the stable,
Where there stands thirty and three.'
3. She mounted on her milk-white steed
And he on the dapple grey,
They rode till they came unto the seaside,
Three hours before it was day.
4. 'Mount off, mount off thy milk-white steed
And deliver it unto me,
For six pretty maidens I have drowded here,
And the seventh one thou shalt be.'
5. 'Pull off, pull off thy Holland smock,
And deliver it unto me
For I think it too rich and costly
To rot all in the salt sea.'
6. 'Pull off, pull off thy silken gown
And deliver it unto me.
Methinks that's too rich and costly
To rot all in the salt sea.'
7. 'If I must pull off my silken gown
Pray turn your back on me
For it's not fitting that such a ruffian
A naked woman should see.'
8. He turned his back right unto her
And gazed on the leaves so green.
She caught him round the middle so small
And plunged him into the stream.

9. He grooped [sic] high and he grooped low
Until he came to the side.
'Catch hold of my hand, my pretty Polly
And I'll surely make thee my bride.'
10. 'Lie there, lie there, you false-hearted knight.
Lie there instead of me.
For six pretty maidens thou hast drowned here,
But the seventh hath drowned thee.'
11. She mounted on the milk-white steed
And led the dapple grey.
She rode till she came to her own father's hall
Three hours before it was day.
12. The parrot being up in the window so high
And hearing his lady did say,
'I fear that some ruffian hath led thee astray
That you tarry so long before day.'
13. Her father being up in his chamber so high
And hearing the parrot did say
'What ails you, what ails you, my pretty Polly
That you prattle so long before day?'
14. 'It's no laughing matter,' the parrot did say.
'So loudly I cry unto thee.
The cat has got up in the window so high
And I was afraid he would have me.'
15. 'Well answered, well answered, my pretty Polly,
Well answered thou back for me.
Thy cage shall be made of the glittering gold,
And the door of the best ivory.'

Source: William Hedges (76) at Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp Sept 10th 1909.

Notes: Sharp noted only the tune from Mr Hedges. Words are from William Hands of Willersey.