

The Bonny Black Hare



Ear - ly one mor - ning at the dawn of the day, I met a pre - tty
mai - den all on the high - way. [To hunt for some game _____ to the
woods I did steer, to ___ seek and to find out my bo - nny black hare.]

Variation



Earlye one morning by the dawn of the day
I met a pretty maiden all on the highway.
[To hunt for some game through the woods I did steer,
To seek and to find out my bonny black hare.]

[I met a] pretty maiden her hair black as sloes
Her teeth was like ivory and her cheeks like the rose
Her hair hung in ringlets on her shoulders bare
"Pretty maid," says I, "have you seen my black hare?"

The whole of the morning I've been hunting all round
And my bonny black hare is nowheres to be found
But since you've been kindly, my darling so fair
You shall go with me to hunt my black hare.

[The answer she gave me, oh, the answer was "No,
But under me apron they say it do go,
And if you'll not deceive me, I vow and declare,
We'll both go together to hunt the bonny black hare."]

[His gun ready loaded determined he was,
He threw the fair maiden down on the green grass;
His trigger he drew, put his ball in her hair,
And he fired a shot at her bonny black hare.]

His gun ready loaded, he drew it once more
Kind sir to the trigger I never before
For your powder and ball is so sweet I declare
Come fire one more shot at me bonny black hare.

[He said, "Fair maiden, my powder's all gone,
My gun's out of order I cannot ram on;
But I'll be back in the morning, and if you are still here,
We'll both go together to hunt the bonny black hare."]

Source: Sung by Lementina ("Lemmie") Brazil, Gloucester. Collected by Gwilym Davies April 1981

Notes: Learnt from her father. Lemmie played the tune on the melodeon and spoke the verses.
The text has been completed from a recording of Lemmie made by Peter Shephard and
from a broadside. The added text is in brackets.

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