

Lord Thomas & Fair Eleanor

Complete Copy

Taken down from Sally Satterley by H.F.I.S.
Tune used in S. of West for No.6



Sent me by Lady Lethbridge, 1905



Tune in Chappell, p. 1451.



1. Lord Thomas he was a bold veneer,
And a chaser of the King's deer;
Fair Eleanor was a fair lady
And Lord Thomas he loved her dear.
2. Come riddle my riddle, dear mother, he said
And riddle it all in one,
Whether I shall marry fair Eleanor
Or bring the brown girl home.
3. "The brown girl she has houses & lands
Fair Eleanor she has none,
And therefore I carge *{sic}* you on my blessing
To bring the brown girl home."
- *4. He dressed himself in gallant attire
His merry men all in white
And every town that he passed through,
They thought him a comely knight.
5. And when he arrived at fair Eleanor's bower,
He knocked loud at the ring.
And none so ready as fair Eleanor
To let Lord Thomas in.

6. What news, what news Lord Thomas, she said
What news do you bring to me?
“I am come to bid you to my wedding,
And that is bad news to thee.”
7. “O God forbid Lord Thomas’ she said
‘That such a thing should be done,
I thought to have been the bride myself,
And thou to have been my bridegroom.”
8. “Now riddle my riddle dear mother” she said
“And riddle it all in one.
Whether I shall go to Lord Thomas’s wedding
Or tarry with you at home.”
9. “Oh hundreds are your friends, dear child,
But thousands are as foe.
And therefore I charge you, on my blessing
To Lord Thomas’s wedding don’t go.”
10. “If hundreds are my friends, mother,
And thousands are as foe,
Betide me life or betide me death,
To Lord Thomas’s wedding I’ll go.”
11. She dressed herself in gallant attire,
Her merry maids all in green,
And every town that she rode through,
They took her to be some Queen.
12. And when she arrived at Lord Thomas’s bower
And knocked loud at the ring,
Oh! who was so ready as Lord Thomas
To let fair Eleanor in.
- *13. He took her by the lily-white hand
And led her through the hall.
There were four & twenty gay ladies
But she was the fairest of all.
14. “Is this your bride? Lord Thomas,” said she,
“Methinks she looks wondrous brown.
You might have had as fair a lady
As ever the sun shone on.”
15. “O scorn her not fair Ellen,” said he,
“O scorn her not unto me.
For better I love your little finger
Than all her whole body.”
16. The brown girl had a knife in her hand,
It was both small & short.
Between the short ribs & the long
She pierced Fair Eleanor’s heart.
17. “Oh what thee ails, fair Ellen,” he said,
Methinks thou looks’t wondrous wan.
You used to have as fair a colour
As ever the sun shone on.”

18. "O are you blind, Lord Thomas," she said
"Or can't you very well see?
For well I feel my own heart's blood
Come trickling down my knee."
19. Lord Thomas he had a sword by his side
It was both sharp & small.
He cut off the head of the brown, brown girl
And he dashed it against the wall.
20. He put the hilt unto the ground,
The point unto his heart,
Sure never three lovers so soon did meet
And never so soon did part

Taken down from Sally Satterley, Huccaby Bridge 1891. She had learned it from her father.
Sent me by Lady Lethbridge as sung to her when a child.

Note verses 4 & 13 not same in Percy's Reliques. certainly 4 is right as it corresponds verse 11 which is in Percy.
Note also Sally's expression in v. 1 "a bold veneer".

small verbal differences with Percy's copy.