

Lord Thomas & Fair Eleanor



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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 3. | "The brown girl she has houses & lands Fair Eleanor she has none, And therefore I charge you on my blessing To bring the brown girl home." | 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. |
| 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. | 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." |
| 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. | 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." |
| 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." | 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. |
| 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." | 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." |
| 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." | 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." |
| 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." | 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. |
| 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." | 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.
['vener' could be a word related to venison- S.G.]