

Captain Wedderburn's Courtship

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 lane. And - by came Cap - tain Wed - der - burn, A
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 wall".

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| <p>1. The Laird of Rosslyn's daughter
 Walked through the wood her lane.
 And by came Captain Wedderburn,
 A soldier of the king.
 He said unto his serving man,
 "Were't not against the law,
 I would take her to my own bed
 And lay her next the wall".</p> | <p>3. Then said the pretty lady,
 "I pray tell me your name."
 "My name is Captain Wedderburn,
 A soldier of the king.
 Though your father and all his men were here,
 I would take you from them all,
 I would take you to my own bed
 And lay you next the wall".</p> |
| <p>2. "I'm walking here my lane", says she,
 "Among my father's trees,
 And you may let me walk my lane,
 Kind sir, now, if you please.
 The supper bell it will be rung
 And I'll be missed awa',
 So I'll not lie in your bed
 At neither stock nor wall".</p> | <p>4. "O hold away from me,
 Kind sir, I pray you let me be,
 For I'll not lie in your bed
 Till I get dishes three.
 Three dishes for my supper,
 Though I eat none at all,
 Before I lie in your bed
 At either stock or wall".</p> |

5. "I must have to my supper
A chicken without a bone,
And I must have to my supper
A cherry without stone,
And I must have to my supper
A bird without a gall,
Before I lie in your bed
At either stock or wall".
6. The chicken when it's in the shell
I'm sure it has no bone,
And when the cherry's in the bloom
I'm sure it has no stone.
The dove she is a gentle bird,
She flies without a gall,
And we'll both lie in one bed
And you'll lie next the wall".
7. "O hold away from me, kind sir,
And do not me perplex,
For I'll not lie in your bed
Till you answer questions six.
Six questions you must answer me,
And that is four and twa,
Before I lie in your bed
At either stock or wall".
8. "O what is greener than the grass,
What's higher than the trees,
O what is worse than a woman's wish,
What's deeper than the seas,
What bird crows first, what tree buds first,
What first on them does fall,
Before I lie in your bed
At either stock or wall".
9. "Death is greener than the grass,
Heaven's higher than the trees,
The devil's worse than woman's wish,
Hell's deeper than the seas,
The cock crows first, the cedar buds first,
Dew first on them does fall,
And we'll both lie in one bed,
And you'll lie next the wall".
10. Little did this lady think,
That morning when she raise,
It was to be the very last
Of all her maiden days,
For now she's Captain Wedderburn's wife,
A man she never saw,
And now they lie in one bed,
And she lies next the wall.

"Captain Wedderburn's Courtship", also known as "Lord Roslin's Daughter" and "The Laird of Rosslyn's Daughter" is a narrative Scottish ballad dating from 1785 or earlier.

It appears in F. J. Child's **The English and Scottish Popular Ballads** as #46 and the **Roud Folk Song Index** as #36.

The song was collected in the United States, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia.

The first known publication, probably, dates from 1780s in **The New British Songster**.

"The Riddle Song" is a shortened version that is condensed to only one set of riddles and the back-story has been ignored.

It was recorded by

Ewan MacColl on **The English and Scottish Popular Ballads (The Child Ballads) Volume IV** (1956) and on **Ballads: Murder Intrigue Love Discord** (2009), Ian and Sylvia as "Captain Woodstock's Courtship" (1964), Tim Hart and Maddy Prior on **Folk Songs of Old England Vol. 2** (1968), Jean Redpath on **Jean Redpath** (1975), The Great Big Sea on **Turn** (as "Captain Wedderburn"), Willie Clancy on **Songs of Courtship & Marriage** (1988) as "The Song of the Riddles", Cara Luft on **The Light Fantastic** (2007) (as "Lord Roslyn's daughter"), Bellowhead on **Hedonism** (2010), Séamus Ennis on **Good People, Take Warning : Ballads by British and Irish Traditional Singers** (2012) (as "Captain Wedderburn") and by many others.