

## The Twa Corbies



1. As I was walking all alane  
I heard twa corbies makin' mane  
And one ontae the other did say  
Where will we gang and dine the day,  
Where will we gang and dine the day.
2. In ahind yon oul fail dyke  
I wot there lies a new slain knight.  
Naeboddy kens that he lies there  
But his hawk and hound and his lady fair,  
His hawk and hound and his lady fair.
3. His hawk is tae the hunting gane  
His hound to bring a wild fowl hane  
His wife has taken another mate  
So we can make our dinner sweet,  
We can make our dinner sweet.
4. And you can sit on his white breast bone  
And I'll pick out his bonny blue e'en  
And with a lock of his yellow hair  
We'll theek our nest when it grows bare,  
We'll theek our nest when it grows bare.
5. And many's a one for him makes mane  
Naeboddy kens where he has gane  
Through his white bones when they grow bare  
The wind shall blow forever mare,  
The wind shall blow forever mare.

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### Meaning of Scottish words:

twa	=	two	wot	=	know
corbies	=	crows (or ravens)	kens	=	knows
ahind	=	behind	hause-bane	=	neck bone
oul	=	old	een	=	eye
fail dyke	=	wall of turf	theek	=	thatch

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"The Twa Corbies" is a Scottish song. This is a version of "The Three Ravens", a song which dates back to the 13th century at least and was collected (and probably reworked) by Sir Walter Scott in **Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border** (1803). It was printed as #26 in Child's **The English and Scottish Popular Ballads**. The oldest version is probably the one printed as "The Three Ravens" in Ravenscroft's **Melismata** (1611). It appears as #5 in the **Roud Folksong Index**.

It is set to the tune "A la larc" from Brittany.

It was recorded by Steeleye Span on **Hark! The Village Wait** (1970) and by the Sands Family on **The Third Day** (1974), Jean Redpath on **Scottish Ballad Book** (1974) and John Roberts and Debra Cowan on **Ballads Long & Short** (2015).