

## The Black Velvet Band



- In a neat little town they call Belfast  
An apprentice to trade I was bound  
And it's many an hour's sweet happiness  
Have I spent in that neat little town  
Till a sad misfortune came o'er me  
Which caused me to stray from the land  
Far away from my friends and relations  
Betrayed by the black velvet band.

**Chorus**  
Her eyes they shone like diamonds.  
You'd think her the queen of the land  
And her hair hung over her shoulder  
Tied up with a black velvet band.
- Well, I was out strolling one evening  
Not meaning to go very far  
When I met with a pretty young damsel  
Who was selling her trade in the bar.  
Well, a watch she took from a customer  
And slipped it right into my hand.  
Then the law came and put me in prison,  
Bad luck to the black velvet band.

**Chorus**
- Next morning before judge and jury  
For a trial I had to appear  
And the judge, he said, "Me young fellow,  
The case against you is quite clear  
And seven long years is your sentence.  
You're going to Van Dieman's Land  
Far away from your friends and relations  
To follow the black velvet band."

**Chorus**
- So come all you jolly young fellows  
I'd have you take warning by me  
Whenever you're out on the liquor, me lads,  
Beware of the pretty colleens.  
They'll fill you with whiskey and porter  
Til you're not able to stand  
And the very next thing that you'll know, me lads,  
You're landed in Van Dieman's Land.

**Chorus**

---

This was the song that everyone was singing in 1967/68 mostly due to the The Irish Rovers' album **The Unicorn**. We all got thoroughly sick of it. It was recorded by Ewan MacColl, The Irish Rovers, The Dubliners and anyone else who wanted to cash in on a popular song. This is pretty much the Rovers' version.