

The Silk Merchant's Daughter

Traditional

There was a rich merchant in Lon-don did right. Had one on - ly - daugh-ter her -
beau-ty shined bright. She lov-ed a por-ter and to pre-vent the day of - mar-riage, they
sent this poor - young man a - way.

2. O now he is gone for to serve his king,
It grieves this lady to think of the thing.
She dressed herself up in rich merchant's shape
She wandered away her true love for to seek.
3. As she was a-trav'lling one day almost night,
A couple of ruffians appeared in her sight,
And as they drew near her, O this they did say:
Now we are resolved to take your life away.
4. She had nothing by her but a sword to defend,
These barbarous ruffians murder intend.
But in the contest one of them she did kill,
Which caused the other for to leave the hill.
5. As she was a-sailing over the tide,
She spied a city down by the seaside.
She saw her dear porter a-walking the street,
She made it her business her true love to meet.
6. How do you do, sir, where do you belong?
I'm hunting a diamond and I must be gone.
Hey says I'm no sailor, but if you want a man,
For my passage over I'll do all I can.
7. Then straightway to London their ship it did steer,
Such utter destruction to them did appear.
It was all out on main sea, to their discontent.
Their ship sprung a leak and to the bottom she went.
8. Her father wept sorely and he said my dear Lord,
If only I had let her, she'd be with me e'er more.
It's a lifetime of sadness for this merchant old
For he condemned his daughter to a fortune untold.