

Black Velvet Band

Irish ballad

Roud No. 2146 and 3764

Anonymus



Her eyes they shone like the diamonds You'd think she was queen of the land_ And her



hair hung ov - er her shoul - der, Tied up with a black vel - vet band.



1. In a neat lit - tle town they call Bel-fast, Ap - pren-ticed to trade I was
Till a sad__ mis - for - tune came ov - er me, Which caused me to stray from the



bound And__ man - y an ho - ur's sweet hap - pi - ness I spent in that neat lit - tle town.
land__ Far a - way from my friends and rel - a - tions, be - trayed by the black vel - vet band.

NOTE: As is often the case with long ballads with short verses, most performances of this song alternate two verses to every chorus.

(Chorus:)

Her eyes they shone like diamonds
I thought her the queen of the land
And her hair, it hung over her shoulder
Tied up with a black velvet band

In a neat little town they called Belfast
Apprenticed to trade I was bound
And many an hour's sweet happiness
I spent in that neat little town

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Until a sad misfortune came over me
Which caused me to stray from the land
Far away from my friends and relations
Betrayed by the 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.

A gold watch she took from his pocket
And placed it right into my hand
And the very first thing that I said was,
"Bad cess to the black velvet band!"

Before the judge and the jury
Next morning, I had to appear
The judge, he says to me:
"Young man, you're case it is proven clear

"We'll give you seven years penal servitude
To be spent far away from the land
Far away from your friends and relations
Betrayed by the black velvet band"

So come all you jolly young fellows
A warning take by me
When you are out on the town, me lads
Beware of the pretty *cailins* [colleens]

They'll feed you with strong drink, me lads
'Til you are unable to stand
And the very first thing that you'll know is
You've landed in Van Diemens Land