

## LILY OF THE WEST (AMERICAN TRADITIONAL) \*

Em                      G    D            C                      Em  
When first I came to Louisville, my fortune there to find.

G                      D                      C                      Em  
A damsel there from Lexington was pleasing to my mind.

G                      D                      C                      Em  
Her rosy cheeks, her ruby lips like arrows pierced my breast

                                 G D        C                      Em  
And the name she bore was Flora the Lily of the West.

I courted lovely Flora some pleasure there to find  
But she turned unto another man which sore distressed my mind  
She robbed me of my liberty, deprived me- of my rest  
Then go my lovely Flora, the Lily of the West.

Way down in yonder shady grove, a man of high degree,  
Conversing with my Flora there, it seemed so strange to me  
And the answer that she gave to him it sore did me oppress  
I was betrayed by Flora, the Lily of the West.

I stepped up to my rival, my dagger in my hand  
I seized him by the collar and I boldly bade him stand  
Being mad to desperation I pierced him in the breast  
I killed a man for Flora, the Lily of the West.

I had to stand my trial, I had to make my plea  
They placed me in a criminal box and there convicted me  
Although she swore my life away, deprived me of my rest,  
Still I love my faithless Flora, the Lily of the West.

Lily of the West" is a traditional American folk song (there are older versions known in the west of Ireland, from which the US song was derived) about a man who travels to Louisville and falls in love with a woman named Mary, or Flora, the eponymous Lily of the West. [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org). Roud Folk Song Index #957