

# Skin and Bones

Informant/Performer:  
Jean Ritchie  
Viper, KY

Source:  
*O Love is Teasin'*  
Elektra 60402-1, 1985

1. There was an old wo - man all skin and bones,

rit.

Oo - - oo - - oo - - oo

The first line of musical notation is in 6/8 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics '1. There was an old wo - man all skin and bones,' are written below the staff. A dashed line connects the notes for 'was' and 'an'. The second line of notation begins with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. It features a series of 'Oo' syllables with hyphens, indicating a rhythmic pattern. A slur connects the final 'oo' to the end of the line.

2. She lived down by the old graveyard.
3. One night she thought she'd take a walk.
4. She walked down by the old graveyard.
5. She saw the bones a-layin' around.
6. She thought she'd sweep the old church house.
7. She went to the closet to get her a broom.
8. She opened the door and..... boo!

## Background Information

I heard Jean sing this in March, 1994, in Chattanooga. She sang the following additional verses:

4.2 "The owl sang low in the cedar tree, Who who-who-who"; and,

4.3 "Who will be the next to die? You you-you-you!"

Jerry L. Jaccard