

The Big Orkney Song Project

Oh Dear Oh

As sung by Ethel Findlater

Walking up Edinburgh city
At the back of twelve o'clock at night
There I spied a Spanish lady
Dressin herself with candlelight

"Madam, I have come to court you:
What you are I do not know
Madam, I have come to court you
If your answer should be no."

Refrain

"Oh dear oh, if I had a sailor!
Oh dear oh, if I had but one!
Oh dear oh, if I had a sailor
With his tarry trousers on!"

"Come sit down, you're hearty welcome
Whether you call again or not
Come sit down, you're hearty welcome
If my answer should be no."

"Madam, I have gold and silver;
Madam, I have houses and land;
Madam, I have men and maidens
And they all shall be at your command."

Refrain

"What care I for your gold and silver?
What care I for your houses and land?
What care I for your men and maidens?
All I want is a handsome young man."

"Madam, you talk much of beauty:
It is a flower that will soon decay,
For the fairest flower that blooms in summer,
When winter comes, it fades away."

Refrain

"Don't you see yon lugger coming
With the longboat at the stern?
It's him that's got my heart-a-keeping –
I wish he had my body too."

"My two eyes are dim with weeping
Oh dear oh, what shall I do?
It's him that's got my heart-a-keeping –
I wish he had my body too."

Refrain x 2