

The Cruel Brother (Child 11G)

- 1 THERE was three ladys in a ha,
Fine flowers i the valley
There came three lords amang them a',
Wi the red, green, and the yellow
- 2 The first of them was clad in red: 5
'O lady fair, will you be my bride?'
- 3 The second of them was clad in green:
'O lady fair, will you be my queen?'
- 4 The third of them was clad in yellow: 10
'O lady fair, will you be my marrow?'
- 5 'You must ask my father dear,
Likewise the mother that did me bear.'
- 6 'You must ask my sister Ann,
And not forget my brother John.'
- 7 'I have askt thy father dear, 15
Likewise thy mother that did thee bear.
- 8 'I have askt thy sister Ann,
But I forgot thy brother John.'
- 9 Her father led her through the ha,
Her mother dancd before them a'. 20
- 10 Her sister Ann led her through the closs,
Her brother John put her on her horse.

- 11 'You are high and I am low;
Let me have a kiss before you go.'
- 12 She was louting down to kiss him sweet, 25
Wi his penknife he wounded her deep.
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- 13 'O lead me over into yon stile,
That I may stop and braeth a while.
- 14 'O lead me over to yon stair,
For there I 'll ly and bleed ne mair.' 30
- 15 'O what will you leave your father dear?'
'That milk-white steed that brought me here.'
- 16 'O what will you leave your mother dear?'
'The silken gown that I did wear.'
- 17 'What will you leave your sister Ann?' 35
'My silken snood and golden fan.'
- 18 'What will you leave your brother John?'
'The highest gallows to hang him on.'
- 19 'What will you leave your brother John's wife?'
'Grief and sorrow to end her life.' 40
- 20 'What will ye leave your brother John's bairns?'
'The world wide for them to range.'