

Lady Isabel and the Elf-Knight (Child 4A)

- 1 FAIR lady Isabel sits in her bower sewing,
Aye as the gowans grow gay
There she heard an elf-knight blawing his horn.
The first morning in May
- 2 'If I had yon horn that I hear blawing, 5
And yon elf-knight to sleep in my bosom.'
- 3 This maiden had scarcely these words spoken,
Till in at her window the elf-knight has luppen.
- 4 'It 's a very strange matter, fair maiden,' said he,
'I canna blaw my horn but ye call on me. 10
- 5 'But will ye go to yon greenwood side?
If ye canna gang, I will cause you to ride.'
- 6 He leapt on a horse, and she on another,
And they rode on to the greenwood together.
- 7 'Light down, light down, lady Isabel,' said he, 15
'We are come to the place where ye are to die.
- 8 'Hae mercy, hae mercy, kind sir, on me,
Till ance my dear father and mother I see.'
- 9 'Seven king's-daughters here hae I slain,
And ye shall be the eight o them.' 20
- 10 'O sit down a while, lay your head on my knee,
That we may hae some rest before that I die.'
- 11 She stroakd him sae fast, the nearer he did creep,
Wi a sma charm she lulld him fast asleep.
- 12 Wi his ain sword-belt sae fast as she ban him, 25
Wi his ain dag-durk sae sair as she dang him.
- 13 'If seven king's-daughters here ye hae slain,
Lye ye here, a husband to them a'.'