

Bonny Black Bess

Sung by LaRena Clark

1. When darkness it hid me, I left my abode;
When friends they forsook me, I took to the road
To rob all the wealthy for those in distress.
To aid me I bought thee, my bonny Black Bess.
2. O'er hills, dales, and valleys I rode you all through;
From London to Yorkshire like lightning you flew.
No toll-gate could stop you, and rivers you'd breast;
In four hours you reached there, my bonny Black Bess.
3. How quiet you stood while the coaches I stopped;
The gold and the jewels from the inmates I got.
No poor have I robbed, nor yet did them oppress,
The widows or orphan, my bonny Black Bess.
4. Oh hark, hear the bloodhounds! How near they have drawn!
They'll ne'er have you, Betsy, so faithful and kind.
I'll die like a man, and I'll soon be at rest,
So farewell forever, my bonny Black Bess.
5. For year after year when I'm dead and gone
This tale will be handed from father to son.
Some of them will pity, but all will confess
Through kindness I shot thee, my bonny Black Bess
6. When I came a bumper, what could I do less
Than drink to the shade of my bonny Black Bess?
Hurrah and hurrah, all undaunted was she,
And so was her rider, Dick Turpin was he.