

Penny Ballads

The Wrongful Confinement

by Nisbet and Cann

Once did the pretty parson's daughter watch as the hunt came riding by;
then did the squire stay his stallion hard by the maid who caught his eye.
"Maid will you marry me?" he asked her, "open your gate and take my hand.
You 'll have a horse and you 'll have a carriage, you 'll have a household to command"

*As the may blooms in springtime,
Love is fine when first it's found.
without warning will the wind change
blows the blossom to the ground
(x2)*

For seven years she lived contented, hardly a care did cloud her days.
Then when her cousin Kate came calling she watched her husband change his ways.
"She is a lovely girl" he told her. "She is fresh as morning dew.
Fine is her form, unchanged by childbirth, she is as fair as once were you "

"I do not mean to cast you out love, though you must leave the marriage bed,
You 'll have a chamber in the household where cousin Kate rules in your stead"
All in a rage she cursed the lovers: "What, do you think me such a fool?
I will not suffer this arrangement. How could a husband turn so cruel?"

As the may etc

"Who are these men who talk in whispers? What is the carriage at the gate?
Why do they handle me so roughly? Where do they take me, what's my fate"
"Here is the writ for your confinement, here is the doctor's signature.
There is a house where you must stay, love, and you will see me nevermore "

There is a lady at a window and in her hand she holds a shce
and in the shce a note she's written "Help me, I know not what to do
Friendlessness am I within this madhouse, wrongfully here am I confined.
Won't someone please affect my rescue or I might really lose my mind"