

If I was a Blackbird

Female perspective...

I am a young maiden, my story is sad
For once I was carefree and in love with a lad
He courted me sweetly by night and by day
But now he has left me and gone far away

Chorus:

Oh if I was a blackbird, could whistle and sing
I'd follow the vessel my true love sails in
And in the top rigging I would there build my nest
And I'd flutter my wings o'er his broad golden chest

He sailed o'er the ocean, his fortune to seek
I missed his caresses and his kiss on my cheek
He returned and I told him my love was still warm
He turned away lightly and great was his scorn

He offered to take me to Donnybrook Fair
To buy me fine ribbons, tie them up in my hair
He offered to marry and to stay by my side
But then in the morning he sailed with the tide

My parents they chide me, and will not agree
Saying that me and my true love married should never be
Ah but let them deprive me, or let them do what they will
While there's breath in my body, he's the one that I love still

Male perspective...

I am a young sailor, my story is sad
For once I was carefree and a bold sailor lad
I courted a lassie by night and by day
But now she has left me and gone far away

Chorus:

Oh if I was a blackbird, could whistle and sing
I'd follow the vessel my true love sails in
And in the top rigging I would there build my nest
And I'd flutter my wings o'er her lily-white breast

Or if I was a scholar and could handle a pen
One secret love letter to my true love I'd send

And I'd tell of my sorrow, my grief and my pain
Since she's gone and left me in yon flowery glen

I sailed o'er the ocean, my fortune to seek
Though I missed her caress and her kiss on my cheek
I returned and I told her my love was still warm
But she turned away lightly and great was her scorn

I offered to take her to Donnybrook Fair
And to buy her fine ribbons to tie up her hair
I offered to marry and to stay by her side
But she said in the morning she sailed with the tide

My parents they chide me, and will not agree
Saying that me and my false love married should never be
Ah but let them deprive me, or let them do what they will
While there's breath in my body, she's the one that I love still

The Blackbird's Lament

by Eoghan Og mac Labhrainn

I am a young blackbird, I can whistle and sing
I follow the vessel my true love sails in
And in the top rigging, I there build my nest
And flutter my wings, o'er her lily white breast.

If I were a fisherman, and had rod and reel
I'd spend my days fishing and filling my creel
And when the day's over, when I longed for rest
I'd spend the cold evening in the arms that I love best

Oh, but I am a blackbird, etc.

If I were a soldier, and could handle the sword
I'd fight for her honor and swear by her word
And then she would love me, her handsome young knight
And we'd be together through darkness and light

Oh, but I am a blackbird, etc.

If I were a scholar, and could handle the pen
One secret love letter to my true love I'd send
I'd tell of my sorrow, my grief and my pain
That I can ne'er touch her, nor whisper her name

Oh, but I am a blackbird, etc. . .

Love, it does blind me, for I cannot see
That me and my false love, married could never be
Though I've never told her, and I never will
While there's breath in my body, she's the one that I love still

For I am a blackbird, I can whistle and sing
And when the day rises, my song it will bring
I'll sing for my true love, my song strong and true
With a voice that no man could have, I'll swear my love for you.

For I am a blackbird, I can whistle and sing
I follow the vessel my true love sails in
and in the top rigging, I there build me nest
And flutter my wings o'er her lily white breast