

The BLACK VELVET BAND

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In a neat little town they call Belfast
Apprentice to trade I was bound
And many an hours sweet happiness
Did I spend in that neat little town
Till sad misfortune came over me
To be sent far away from the land
Far away from me friends and relations
Betrayed by the black velvet band!

[CHORUS (and between verses)]
Her eyes they shone like diamonds
You'd think she was queen of the land
And her hair hung over her shoulders
Tied up with a black velvet band!

I took a stroll down Broadway
Not meaning too long for to stay
When who should I meet but this pretty fair maid
Came a-traipsing along the highway
She was both fair and handsome
Her neck it was just like a swan
And her hair hung over her shoulders
Tied up with a black velvet band!

I took a stroll with this pretty fair maid
And a gentleman passing us by
I knew she meant the doing of him
By the look in her roguish black eye
A gold watch she took from his pocket
And placed it right into my hand
The very first day that I met her -
Bad luck to the black velvet band!

Well before the judge and the jury
Next morning I had to appear
The judge, he said to me "Young man
The case it is proven quite clear:
Seven long years' transportation
To be spent down in Van Diemen's Land
Far away from your friends and relations
For following the black velvet band."

So come all you jolly young fellows
And a warning take by me:
When you are out on the town, me lads,
Beware of the pretty colleens.
They'll feed you with strong drink, me lads,
Till you are unable to stand
And the very next thing you know is
You've landed in Van Diemen's Land!

