

# Lord Randal

*Douglas Tobin*

*Collected by S. Elizabeth Bird*

*'Lord Randal' in Kent: The Meaning and Context of a Ballad Variant, Folklore, Vol. 96, No. 2 (1985), pp. 248-252*

*Roud 10, Child 12*

1. Where have you been all day, my loving one,  
Where have you been all day, my loving son,  
In the woods, dear mother, in the woods, dear mother,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down.
2. Who took you to the woods, my loving one,  
Who took you to the woods, my loving son,  
Gypsies, dear mother, gypsies, dear mother,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down.
3. What did you eat all day, my loving one,  
What did you eat all day, my loving son,  
Snakes, dear mother, snakes, dear mother,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down.
4. What colour were the snakes, my loving one,  
What colour were the snakes, my loving son,  
Green and yellow, green and yellow,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down
5. What shape do you want your bed, my loving one,  
What shape do you want your bed, my loving son,

Long and narrow, long and narrow,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down.

6. When will we meet again, my loving one,  
When will we meet again, my loving son,  
In Heaven, dear mother, in Heaven, dear mother,  
Then make a bed for a pain in my head,  
For I want to lie down.

“When performing the song, the informant usually stresses the third line of each stanza heavily and melodramatically, until the final stanza, which takes on a slightly maudlin tone”.