

Black Velvet Band

Verse1

G
Well, in a neat little town they call Belfast
C D7
Apprentice to trade I was bound.
G Em
Many an hour's sweet happiness
C D G
Have I spent in that neat little town.

G
A sad misfortune came over me
C D7
Which caused me to stray from the land,
G
Far away from my friends and relations
C D G
Betrayed by the black velvet band.

Chorus

G
Her eyes they shone like diamonds,
C D7
I thought her the queen of the land
G
And her hair it hung over her shoulder
C D G
Tied up with a black velvet band.

Verse2

I took a stroll down Broadway
Meaning not long for to stay,
When who should I meet but this pretty fair maid
Comes a tripping along the highway.
She was both fair and handsome
Her neck it was just like a swan's,
And her hair it hung over her shoulder
Tied up with a black velvet band.

Chorus

Verse3

I took a stroll with this pretty fair maid
And a gentleman passing us by,
Well I knew she meant the doing of him
By the look in her roguish black eye.
A goldwatch she took from his pocket
And placed it right in to my hand
And the very first thing that I said was
"Bad luck to the black velvet band."

Chorus

Verse4

Before the judge and the jury
Next morning I had to appear.
The judge he says to me: "Young man,
Your case it is proven clear.
We'll give you seven years penal servitude,
To be spent faraway from the land,
Far away from your friends and relations,
Betrayed by the black velvet band."

Chorus

Verse5

So come all you jolly young fellows
A warning take by me,
When you are out on the town me lads,
Beware of them pretty colleens.
For they feed you with strong drink, "Oh yeah"
'Til you are unable to stand,
And the very next thing that you'll know is
You've landed in Van Diemens Land

Chorus

The lyrics to the Black Velvet Band vary slightly from town to town in Ireland and there are also versions to be found in England and Scotland.

There is a popular Irish version set in Tralee, and in England the town is often given as London. In all the versions, however, the lyrics tell the same basic story.

A young man is out walking in the town. She hands him some stolen jewellery and he ends up in court. He's then sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

For more information about A Black Velvet Band, and videos of various performers, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/black-velvet-band>

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