

The Banks of Red Roses

When I was a young thing, my moth - er used to say _____
That I'd be a rov - in' lass and eas - y led a - - stray;
Be - - fore I would work, _____ sure, I'd rath - er sport and play
On the bon - nie, bon - nie banks _____ of the ro - - - ses.

When I was a young thing, my mother used to say
That I'd be a rovin' lass and easy led astray;
Before I would work, sure, I'd rather sport and play
On the bonnie, bonnie banks of the roses.

(Chorus)

On the banks of the roses, my love and I sat down,
He's ta'en oot his German flute to play his love a tune;
In the middle o' the tune, noo, the bonnie lassie cried:
"O, it's Johnnie, dear, O Johnnie, dinna leave me!"

For he's ta'en oot a wee penknife as sharp as ony lance,
And he's plunged it right tae yon bonnie lassie's hairt;
He plunged it right in tae yon bonnie lassie's hairt,
And he left her lyin' low among the roses.

Noo, come a' ye traivellin' lasses, a warnin' take by me,
It's never let a Gorgi lad an inch abune your knee;
For if ye dae, ye'll be sure to rue
For he'll leave ye lyin' low among the roses.

(Final chorus omitted)