

## Sandy Denny "Tam Lin"

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The words are different from the original (Child) version but this is a very close approximation of the song as performed by Sandy Denny.

"I forbid you maidens all that wear gold in your hair  
To travel to Carterhaugh, for young Tam Lin is there

None that go by Carterhaugh but they leave him a  
pledge  
Either their mantles of green or else their maidenhead"

Janet tied her kirtle green a bit above her knee  
And she's gone to Carterhaugh as fast as go can she

She'd not pulled a double rose, a rose but only two  
When up then came young Tam Lin, says, "Lady, pull  
no more"

"And why come you to Carterhaugh without command  
from me? "  
"I'll come and go", young Janet said, "and ask no leave  
of thee"

Janet tied her kirtle green a bit above her knee  
And she's gone to her father as fast as go can she

Well, up then spoke her father dear and he spoke meek  
and mild  
"Oh, and alas, Janet," he said, "I think you go with  
child"

"Well, if that be so," Janet said, "myself shall bear the  
blame  
There's not a knight in all your hall shall get the baby's  
name

For if my love were an earthly knight, as he is an elfin  
grey  
I'd not change my own true love for any knight you  
have"

So Janet tied her kirtle green a bit above her knee

And she's gone to Carterhaugh as fast as go can she

"h, tell to me, Tam Lin," he said, "hy came you here to dwell? "

"The queen of fairies caught me when from my horse I fell

And at the end of seven years she pays a tithe to hell  
I so fair and full of flesh and feared it be myself

But tonight is Halloween and the fairy folk ride  
Those that would let true love win at Mile's Cross they  
must bide

So first let pass the horses black and then let pass the  
brown

Quickly run to the white steed and pull the rider down

For I'll ride on the white steed, the nearest to the town  
For I was an earthly knight, they give me that renown

Oh, they will turn me in your arms to a newt or a snake  
But hold me tight and fear not, I am your baby's father

And they will turn me in your arms into a lion bold  
But hold me tight and fear not and you will love your  
child

And they will turn me in your arms into a naked knight  
But cloak me in your mantle and keep me out of sight"

In the middle of the night she heard the bridle ring  
She heeded what he did say and young Tam Lin did  
win

Then up spoke the fairy queen, an angry queen was  
she,  
"Woe betide her ill-far'd face, an ill death may she die"

"Oh, had I known, Tam Lin," she said, "what this night I  
did see  
I'd have looked him in the eyes and turned him to a  
tree"

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