

**The Cruel Mother (trad.)**

**There was a lady lived in York - all the lee and loney  
Fell in love with her father's clerk - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She loved him up, she loved him down - all the lee and loney  
Loved him 'til he filled her arms - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She leant her back against an oak - all the lee and loney  
First it bent and then it broke - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She leant her back against a thorn - all the lee and loney  
There she had two fine babes born - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She took out her reaping knife - all the lee and loney  
There she took those fine babes' lives - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She wiped the blade against her shoe - all the lee and loney  
The more she rubbed, the redder it grew - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**She went back to her father's hall - all the lee and loney  
Saw two babes a-playing at ball - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**'Oh babes oh babes if you were mine' - all the lee and loney  
'I'd dress you up in scarlet fine' - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**'Oh Mother Oh Mother if we were yours' - all the lee and loney  
'Scarlet was our own hearts' blood' - down by the greenwood sidey-o**

**'Oh babes Oh babes it's Heaven for you' - all the lee and loney  
'Oh Mother Oh Mother it's Hell for you' - down by the greenwood sidey-o**