

THE

TRAGEDY

OF

JAMIE AND NANCY,

OF

YARMOUTH.



STIRLING:

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Jamie and Nancy of Yarmouth.

ALL Lovers, I pray, lend an ear to my story,
Take an example by this constant pair,
For love this young virgin did blast in her glory,
Beautiful Nancy of Yarmouth, we hear.

She was a merchant's only daughter dear,
Her unto fifteen hundred a year;
A young man courted her, call'd her his jewel,
The son of a gentleman who lived near.

Many long years this maid he admir'd,
When but very young in love they agreed;
And when come of age this couple arrived,
Cupid an arrow between them displayed.

Their tender hearts were linked together,
But when her parents the same did hear,
They to their charming beautiful daughter
Acted a part that was base and severe.

Daughter, they said, give o'er your proceedings,
If that against our consent you do wed,
For evermore we resolve to ditown you,
If you wed with one that's so meanly bred.

Her mother said, you have a great fortune,
Besides you are beautiful charming and young,
You are a match, dear child, that is fitting
For any Lord that's in Christendom.

Then did reply the young beautiful virgin,
Riches and honor I both do defy,
If I am deprived of my dearest lover,
Then farewell the world, which is all vanity.

Jamie's the man that I do admire,
He is the riches that I do adore:
For to be great I never desire,
My heart is fixed never to love more.

Then said her father, 'tis my resolution,
Altho' I have no more daughters but thee,
If that with him you resolve for to marry,
Banish'd for ever from me thou shalt be.

Well, cruel father, but this I desire,
Grant me that Jamie once more I may see,
Though you do part us, I still will be loyal,
For none in the world I admire but he.

For the young man he sent in a passion,
Saying, For ever, Sir, now take your leave,
I have a match more fit for my daughter,
Therefore it is but a folly to grieve.

Honoured father, said the young lady,
Promis'd we are to each other in love;
Why of all comforts will ye bereave me?
Our love is fix'd never to remove.

Then said her father, a trip to the ocean
You first shall go in a ship of my own;
And I'll consent you shall have my daughter,
When unto Yarmouth you again return.

Honoured Sir, then said the two lovers,
Since 'tis your will, we are bound to obey;
Our constant hearts can never be parted,
But our eager desire no longer can stay.

Then said kind Nancy, Behold, my dear Jamie,
Here take this ring, the pledge of our vow:
With it my heart; keep it safe in your bosom:
Carry it with you wherever you go.

Then in his arms he close did unfold her,
 While chrystal tears like a fountain did flow;
 Crying, My heart in return I do give you,
 And you shall be present wherever you go.

When on the ocean my dear I am sailing,
 The thoughts of my jewel with the compass I steer
 These tedious long days swift time will devour,
 And bring me safe home to my lovely dear.

Therefore be constant, my dear lovely jewel,
 For if that you shall unto me prove untrue,
 My troubled ghost shall torment you forever;
 Dead or alive I will have none but you.

Her lovely arms round his neck she twined,
 Saying, My dear, when you are on the seas,
 If that the waves unto us should prove cruel,
 That we each other no more may see.

No man alive shall ever enjoy me,
 Soon as the tidings of death reach my ear,
 Then like a poor unfortunate lover,
 Down to the grave I will go to my dear.

Then with a sorrowful sigh he departed;
 The wind next morning blew a pleasant gale;
 All things being ready, the fam'd Mary Galley
 Away for Barbadoes she straightway set sail.

Jamie was floating upon the wide ocean,
 And her cruel parents were plotting the while,
 How that the heart of their beautiful daughter
 With cursed gold they should strive to beguile.

Many a lord of fame, birth and breeding,
 Came for to court this young beautiful maid;
 But these rich presents and proffers she slighted,
 Constant I'll be to my jewel, she said.

Now for a while we will leave this fair maiden,
 And tell how things with her lover did do.
 At length at Barbadoes the ship safe arrived,
 But now observe these lovers' overthrow.

Jamie was comely in every feature:
 A Barbadoes lady whose fortune was great;
 So fixed her eyes that she cried, If I have not
 This brave English sailor, I'll die for his sake.

She then dress'd herself in gallant attire,
 With costly diamonds she platted her hair;
 A hundred slaves dress'd to run with her car;
 She sent for this young man to come unto her.

Come handsome sailor, she cried, can you fancy
 A lady whose fortune and riches are great?
 You shall have a hundred slaves to attend you,
 Music to charm you till you fall asleep.

In robes of gold, my dear, I will deck you,
 Pearls and fine jewels I will lay at your feet.
 In a fine gilded chariot you shall ride at pleasure,
 If you can love me; now answer me straight.

Amazed with wonder, a while he stood gazing,
 Forbear, noble lady, at length he replied,
 In England I've vow'd unto a young lady,
 Upon my return to make her my bride.

She is a charming young beautiful creature,
 She has my heart, I can love none more;
 I bear in my eye her sweet lovely feature,
 No other creature on earth I adore.

Hearing of this she did rave in distraction,
 Crying, Unfortunate maid, thus to love
 One that does basely slight all my glory,
 And whose of my person he will not approve.

Lords of renown I their favor have slighted;
 O now I must languish for a sailor bold,
 I cannot blame him because he is constant,
 True love is better than silver or gold.

A costly jewel she instantly gave him,
 Then in her trembling hand she took a knife;
 One fatal stroke before they could save her,
 Quickly put an end to her life.

Great lamentation was made for this lady:
 Jamie on board the ship he did steer.
 Unto Old England he homeward came sailing,
 With a longing desire to meet with his dear.

But when her father heard he was returning,
 He wrote a letter to the boatswain, his friend,
 Saying, a handsome reward I will give you,
 If you the life of young Jamie will end.

Vain of all mercy and for sake of the money,
 The cruel boatswain the same did compleat,
 As they upon the deck one day were walking,
 He suddenly tumbled him into the deep.

In dead of the night, when all was asleep,
 His troubled ghost to his love did appear,
 Crying, Arise my beautiful Nancy,
 Perform the vow that you made to your dear,

You are my own therefore tarry no longer,
 Seven long years for your sake I did stay;
 Hymen doth wait for to crown us with pleasure,
 The bride guests are ready, then come away.

She cried, Who's there under my window?
 Surely it is the voice of my dear!
 Lifting her head from the soft downy pillow,
 Straight to the casement she did repair.

By light of moon which brightly was shining,
She spied her love, who to her did say,
Your parents are sleeping, before they awake
Stir my dear creature, and come away.

O Jamie, she cried, if my father should hear,
We both shall be ruin'd, I pray thee repair
Into the sea side, I'll there meet with you ;
With my two maids I'll meet with you there.

Her night gown embroider'd with gold & silver,
Carelessly round her body she throws ;
With her two maids who did attend her,
To meet her lover she instantly goes.

Close in his arms did the spirit infold her,
Jamie, she said, you are colder than clay !
Sure you're not the man that I did admire ;
Paler than death you appear unto me.

Yes, fairest creature, I am your true love ;
Dead or alive you know you're my own !
Come for thy vow, my dear you must follow
My body now to a watery tomb.

I, for your sake, refus'd gold and silver ;
Beauty and riches for you I despis'd ;
A charming lady for me did expire :
For thinking on you I was deaf to her cries.

Your cruel parents have been my undoing,
And now I do sleep in a watery grave ;
Now for my promise, my dear, I am suing,
Dead or alive now you I must have.

The trembling lady was sorely affrighted,
Amaz'd she stood on the brink of the sea ;
With eyes lifted up, she cried, Cruel parents,
May you be requited for your cruelty.

She then cried aloud, My dear I am coming,
Now into thy bosom I'll soon fall asleep!
When she had thus spoken, this unfortunate lad
She suddenly plunged herself into the deep.

When to her father the maidens this told,
O He wrung his hands, saying, what have I done.
Oh dearest child, it was thy cruel father
That did provide thee a watery tomb.

Two or three days being then expired,
These two unfortunate lovers were seen
In each other's arms, on the waves floating
By the side of the ship, on the watery main.

The cruel boatswain was struck with horror
And straight did confess the deed he had done,
Shewing the letter which came from her father
Which was the cause of these lovers' doom.

On board of the ship he was tried for murder
And at the yard arm was hanged for the same.
Her father soon brake his heart for his daughter
Before that the ship into harbour did come.

FINIS.