

### *THE CRUEL SISTER*

1. There were two sisters sat in a bour;  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
There came a knight to be their wooer;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
2. He courted the eldest with glove and ring;  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
But he lo'ed the youngest aboon a' thing;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
3. He courted the eldest with broach and knife;  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
But he lo'ed the youngest aboon his life;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
4. The eldest she was vexed sair;  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And sore envied her sister fair;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
5. The eldest said to the youngest ane,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
—“Will ye go and see our father's ships come in?”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
6. She's tae'n her by the lilly hand,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And led her down to the river strand;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
7. The youngest stude upon a stane,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
The eldest came and pushed her in;  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
8. She took her by the middle sma',  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And dashed her bonnie back to the jaw,  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
9. —“O sister, sister, reach your hand,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And ye shall be heir of half my land.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.

10. —“O sister, I’ll not reach my hand,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And I’ll be heir of all your land:  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
11. —“Shame fa’ the hand that I should take,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
It’s twin’d me, and my world’s make.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
12. —“O sister, reach me but your glove,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And sweet William shall be your love.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
13. —“Sink on, nor hope for hand or glove,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And sweet William shall better be my love.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
14. —“Your cherry cheeks and your yellow hair,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Garr’d me gang maiden evermair.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
15. Sometimes she sunk, and sometimes she swam,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Untill she came to the miller’s dam,  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
16. —“O father, father, draw your dam!  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
There’s either a mermaid or a milkwhite swan.”—  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
17. The miller hasted and drew his dam,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And there he found a drowned woman,  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
18. You could not see her yellow hair,  
                                Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
For gowd and pearls that were sae rare,  
                                By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.

19. You could na see her middle sma',  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Her gowden girdle was sae bra';  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
20. A famous harper passing by,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
The sweet pale face he chanced to spy;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
21. And when he looked that ladye on,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
He sighed and made a heavy moan;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
22. He made a harp of her breast bone,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Whose sounds would melt a heart of stone;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
23. The strings he framed of her yellow hair,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Whose notes made sad the listening ear;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
24. He brought it to her father's hall;  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And there was the court assembled all;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
25. He laid this harp upon a stone,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And straight it began to play alone;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
26. —“O yonder sits my father, the king,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And yonder sits my mother, the queen;  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.
27. “And yonder stands my brother Hugh,  
                                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
And by him my William sweet and true.”—  
                                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.

28. But the last tune that the harp play'd then,  
                    Binnorie, O Binnorie;  
Was "Woe to my sister, false Helen!"—  
                    By the bonny milldams of Binnorie.