

# The Wee Toon Clerk

*Child 281 / Greig-Duncan 317*

Almost everyone in North East Scotland knows the 'Ricky Doo Dum Day' chorus to this song. Emma particularly likes this one due to the story line of the young girl outwitting her parents to have a liaison with her boyfriend.

Mysie she went up the street  
Some fresh fish for tae buy  
An the wee toon clerk he heard her feet  
An he's followed her on the sly

*Ricky doo dum day doo dum day  
Ricky dicky doo dum day*

Whit wye will I get to your bed my love?  
Whit wye will I get to your bed?  
My mither she locks the door at nicht  
An the key lies under her head

If ye get a ladder a lang lang ladder  
Some sixty steps an three  
An wi a lang rope tae the chimney-top  
And ye'll come in a creel tae me

Noo he's got a ladder a lang lang ladder  
Some sixty steps an three  
An wi a lang rope to the chimney-top  
An he's come in a creel to me

Nae peace nor rest could the aul wife get  
Strange things cam in her heid  
I'll wager my life says the silly aul wife  
There's a man in my dochter's bed

The auld man rose pit on his clothes  
To see if this was true  
But she caught up the Bible in her hand  
And in the curtains drew

Oh faither dear oh faither dear  
What brings ye here sae late?  
Disturbin' me in ma evenin prayers  
An o but they were sweet

Ye silly aul wife ye lying aul wife  
An an ill death may ye dee  
When your dochter's lyin in her bed  
An she's prayin for you an me

So the aul wife rose pit on her clothes  
To see if this was true  
But she caught her fit in the tummlin-block  
And in the creel she flew

Them aa was at the chimney-top  
Thocht this was naethin new  
But they thocht it was the wee toon clerk  
So up the creel they drew

But when they saw it was the aul wife  
They let the creel doon faa  
An every rib o the aul wife's back  
Played nick-nack on the waa

It's o the blue the bonnie bonnie blue  
The blue that I lo'ed weel  
Let ilka aul wife that's jealous o her dochter  
Be rockit in the same aul creel

blue = quilt / bed cover  
creel = wicker basket  
fit = foot  
ilka = every  
lo'ed = loved  
noo = now  
thocht = thought  
tummlin-block = block & tackle  
waa = wall  
whit wye = what way / how