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1

There was a rich lady in London did dwell,
She lived with her uncle, she was known well,
Down in yonder valley, where true lovers were gay,
The gypsies betrayed her and stole her away.

2

A long time she was missing and could not be found,
Her uncle he searched the whole country round,
He went to her trustee between hope and fear,
But her trustee replied, "She has not been here."

And up spoke her uncle with courage so bold,

3

I fear she's been lost for the sake of her gold.
"Then life lies for life and we'll have life" he cried,
"We'll send you to prison and there you must lie."

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There was a young squire who courted her so,
Oftimes from the school room together would go.
"My mind is in trouble, so great is my fear,
Had I the wings of a dove, I would fly to my dear."

He travelled through England, through France and through Spain
He ventured his life o'er the water main.
At length he put up for to stop for the night,
And in that same house, was his own heart's delight.

When she saw she knew him, she flew to his arms.
When he told her his stories, she gazed on his charms.
"What brought you to this country, fair lady!" said he,
"The gypsies betrayed me and stole me away."

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"Your uncle in London prison doth lie,
And for your sweet sakes he's condemned to die."
"Carry me back to London, to London," she cried,
"Five thousand I'll give and will be your bride."

When they came back to London her uncle to see,
Her uncle was under the high gallows tree.

"Oh Pardon! Oh Pardon! Oh Pardon! I crave.
Don't you see I'm alive your sweet life to save."

Then straight from the gallows they led him away,
The drums they did beat and sweet music did play.
Every house in the valley did mirth did abound,
When they all heard and saw the lost lady was found.

Finis

Variations of this song have been recorded in Cheshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Dorset England, as well at the Maritime provinces of Canada, and parts of the United States



¹ Also known by the variant titles, "The Lost Lady Found," and "The Gypsy Song"

² In all verses, the last lines are sung repeated as a refrain. Eg: The gypsies betrayed her, the gypsies betrayed her, the gypsies betrayed her and stole her away.

³ In other versions, the trustee speaks this line.