

The Highwayman

Poem by Alfred Noyes

Music J Gleadall

Tenor

8 16

7 24

oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

The moon was a ghost - ly gal - le - on tossed u - pon clou - dy

32

seas The road was a rib - bon of moon - light O - ver the pur - ple moor

40

3

ri - ding The High - way - man came ri - ding Up to the old inn door.

5 48

A coat of the clar - et vel - vet and breech - es of brown doe -

skin. They fit - ted with ne - ver a wrink - le His boots were up to the

56

thigh And he rode with a jew - elled twink - le His pis - tol butts a -

64

twink - le His ra - pier hilt a - twink - le un - der the jew - elled sky.

5 72

He tapped with his whip on the shut - ters but all was locked and

barred He whist - led a tune to the win - dow and who should be wai - ting

80

there But the land - lord's black eyed daugh - ter Bess, the land - lord's

daugh - ter Plait - ing a dark red love knot in - to her long black hair.

And dark in the dark old inn yard ^a₉₆ sta - ble wic - ket cre - aked Where

Tim the os - tl - er list - ened His face was white and peaked His

eyes were hol - lows of mad ness ₁₀₄ his hair like moul - dy hay, But he

loved the land - lord's daugh - ter ₁₁₂ Dumb as a dog he list - ened and he

heard the rob - ber say. 'One kiss my bon - ny

sweet - heart, I'm ^{af -}₁₂₀ ter a prize to - night, But I shall be back with the

yel - low gold be - fore the mor - ning light; Yet, if they press me

sharp - ly and har - ry me through the day, Then look for me by moon - light,

watch for me by moon - light I'll come to thee by moon - light though

hell should ba - r the way!" He rose up - right in the

stir - rups. He scarce could reach her hand, But she loos - ened her hair in the

case - ment his face burned like a brand As the black cas - cade of per - fume came

tum - bl - ing o - ver his breast; And he kissed its waves in the moon - light (O,
 sweet black waves in the moon - light, Then he tugged at his rein in the
 moon - light and gall - opped a - way to the West. And
 out of the taw - ny sun - set Be - fore the rise of the moon When the
 road was a Gy - p - sies rib - bon Loop - ing the pur - ple moor
 mar - ching King George' - s men came march - ing up to the old inn door.
 They said no word to the land - lord They drank his ale in -
 stead But they gagged his daugh - ter and bound her to the foot of her nar - row
 bed Two of them knelt at her case - ment with mus - kets at their
 side! There was death at ev' - ry win - dow For
 Bess could see through her case - ment the road that he would ride.
 'Look for me by moon - light Watch for me by moon - light I'll
 come to thee by moon - light though hell should bar the way! She

twis - ted her hands be - hind her but all the knots held good! She
248

writhed her hands till her fin - gers were wet with sweat or blood! They

stretched and strained in the dark - ness and the hours crawled by like years Till
256

now on the stroke of mid - night Cold on the stroke of mid - night The
3 3 3 7

tip of one fin - ger touched it! The trig - ger at lea - st was hers!
272 3

The tip of one fin - ger touched it She strove no more for the
280

rest. Up, she stood up to at - ten - tion with the

muz - zle be - neath he - r breast. She would not risk their
288

hear - ing she would not strive a - gain; For the road lay bare in the
3 3

moon - light; Blank and bare in the moon - light and the blood of her veins in the
296 3 6

moon - light throbbed to her lo - ve's re - frain Tlot

tlot tlot tlot Had they heard it? The horse - hoofs ring - ing clear Tlot
312 3

tlot tlot tlot in the dis - tance Were they deaf that they did not hear?

Down the rib - bon of moon - light, o - ver the prow of the hill The
 320
 High - way - man came ri - ding ri - ding ri - ding The red - coats looked to their
 3
 pri - ming She stood up straight and still. Tlot tlot in the fros - ty
 3
 si - lence! Tlot tlot in the ech - o - ing night Near - er he came and
 336
 near - er Her face was like a light Her eyes grew wide for a mo - ment she
 drew one last deep breath Then her fin - ger moved in the moon - light Her
 344
 mus - ket shat - tered the moon - light shat - tered her breast in the moon - light and
 352
 warned him with her death!
 360
 He tur - west stood. Bowed
 376
 her blood! Not till the dawn he heard it How
 384
 Bess, the land - lord's daugh - ter The land - lord's black eyed daugh - ter Had
 392
 watched for her love in the moon - light and died in the dark - ness there!
 4
 Back he spurred like a mad - man shriek - ing a curse to the sky!

Wine red was his vel - vet coat: When they

shot ₃ him down on the high - way Down like a dog on the high - way And he ₁₂

lay in his blood on the high - way with a bunch of lace at his throat. ₄₃₂ ₇

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seas when the road is a rib - bon of moon - light O - ver the pur - ple moor

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