In a neat little town they called Belfast apprenticed a trade I was bound. And many a hours sweet happiness have I spent in that neat little town. A sad misfortune came over me which caused me to stray from the land, far away from me friends and relations betrayed by the black velvet band.

Her eyes they shone like diamonds, I thought her the Queen of the land. And her hair it hung over her shoulder tied up with a black velvet band.

I took a stroll down Broadway, meaning not long for to stay.
Well who should I meet but this pretty fair maid come a-traipsing along the highway.
She was both fair and handsome, her neck it was just like a swan, and her hair it hung over her shoulder, tied up with a black velvet band.

I took her stroll with this pretty fair maid and a gentleman passing us by. Well I knew she meant the doom of him by the look in her roguish black eye. A gold watch she took from his pocket and placed it right into my hand, and the very first thing that I said was: "bad cess to the black velvet band!"

Before the judge and the jury next morning I had to appear. The judge says to me: "Young man, your case it is proven clear!" We ll give you seven years penal servitude to be spent far away from the land, far away from your friends and relations betrayed by the black velvet band.