

## Rosetti: (c)i *Lord Thomas and Lady Ellinor*

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1. Lord Thomas was a bold forester  
And the lodge-keeper of the king's deer;  
Fair Ellinor was a lady gay,  
Lord Thomas, he loved her dear.

2. Lord Thomas and Fair Ellinor  
Sat all day on a hill;  
When night had come, and sun was gone,  
They'd not yet said their fill.

3. Lord Thomas spoke a word in jest  
And Ellen took it ill:  
'Oh, I will never marry me a wife  
Against my family's will.'

4. 'If you will never wed thee a wife  
A wife will never wed thee!'  
So he rode home to tell his mother  
And knelt upon his knee.

5. 'Mother, come mother, come riddle to me,  
Come riddle it all in one,  
And tell me whether to marry Fair Ellen  
Or bring the Brown girl home.'

6. 'The Brown girl she has house and land,  
Fair Ellinor she has none,  
And there I charge you with the blessing  
To bring the Brown girl home.'

7. He dressed himself all in his best,  
His merry men all in white;  
And every town that he passed through  
They took him to be some knight.

8. He got on his horse and he rode and he rode,  
He rode 'till he came to the home,  
And who so ready as Fair Ellen herself  
To rise and bid him in.

9. He went till he came to fair Ellinor's court  
So loudly twirled at the pin,  
There was none so ready as fair Ellinor herself  
To let Lord Thomas in.

10. 'What news have you brought unto me, Lord  
Thomas?  
What news have you brought unto me?'  
'I've come to ask you to my wedding,  
A sorrowful wedding to be.'

11. 'Bad news, bad news, Lord Thomas,' she said,  
'Bad news you bring to me;  
You've come to ask me to your wedding,  
When I thought your bride to be.'

12. 'Come come riddle to me, dear mother,' she  
says  
'Come riddle it all in one,  
If I must go to Lord Thomas' wedding  
or if I must stay at home.'

13. 'Many may be your friends, daughter  
But thousands are your foe

And therefore I charge you with my blessing  
To Lord Thomas' wedding don't go.'

14. 'Yes, many may be my friends, mother  
And thousands are my foes  
But betide to my life, betide to my death,  
To Lord Thomas' wedding I'll go.'

15. She turned around and dressed in white  
Her sisters dressed in green,  
And every town that they rode through  
They took her to be some queen.

16. They rode and they rode 'till they came to  
the hall,  
So loudly she twirled at the pin  
And no one so ready as Lord Thomas himself  
To let fair Ellinor in.

17. He took her by her lily white hand  
When leading her through the hall  
Saying 'fifty gay ladies are here today  
But here is the flower of all.'

18. 'Is this your bride, Lord Thomas?' she said  
'She looks most wonderful brown  
You might have had as fair a woman  
As ever trod England's ground.'

19. 'Despise her not, fair Ellinor,' he said  
'Despise her not to me  
Much better do I like your little finger  
Than I do her whole body.'

20. The Brown girl she was standing by  
With knife ground keen and sharp,  
Betwixt the long ribs and the short,  
She pierced Fair Ellinor's heart.

21. 'Oh, what's the matter?' Lord Thomas said  
'You look so pale and wan  
You used to have so fair a colour  
As ever the sun shone on.'

22. 'Oh, are you blind, Lord Thomas?' she said  
'Or can't you very well see,  
And can't you see my own heart's blood,  
As it trickles down to my knee?'

23. Lord Thomas he was standing by,  
With knife ground keen and sharp,  
Between the long ribs and the short,  
He pierced his own bride's heart.

24. He held the grip against the wall,  
The point against his breast,  
'There is the going of three true lovers,  
God send our souls to rest.'

25. 'Oh father, oh father, go dig my grave,  
Go dig it wide and deep,  
And place fair Ellinor in my arms  
And the Brown girl at my feet.'