

Traditional (Child 278)

N: There was an old man who lived under the hill
 G D Em Am
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 N: There was an old man who lived under the hill
 N: If he'd not gone away he'd be livin' there still
 Am Em Am
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be.
 M: One day the devil came down to his plow
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 M: One day the devil came down to his plow
 M: Said (S:) "One of your family I'll have to have now,"
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be.
 S: "And it isn't your son or daughter I crave,"
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 S: "It isn't your son or your daughter I crave
 S: But your old naggin' wife I'll carry away,"
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be
 M: "Ah, take her away with all of my heart,"
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 M: "Take her away with all of my heart
 M: And I'll bet the two of you never will part,"
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be
 N: He set her down at the fork in the road
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 N: He set her down at the fork in the road
 N: He said (S:) "Old woman you're a hell of a load,"
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be
 M: Then he carried her down to the gates of hell
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 M: He carried her down to the gates of hell
 M: Said, (S:) "Rake up the coals and we'll roast her well,"
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be
 N: Two little devils were playing with chains
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 N: Two little devils were playing with chains
 N: She up with her foot and she kicked out their brains,
 ALL: Lady be gay if you can be
 S: One poor little devil peeked over the wall
 ALL: O Lady be gay
 S: One poor little devil peeked over the wall

S: Said, (N:) "Take her home, Daddy; she'll murder us all!"
ALL: Lady be gay if you can be

N: So the devil he hoisted her up on his back
ALL: O Lady be gay
N: The devil he hoisted her up on his back
N: And home again with her in a pack
ALL: Lady be gay if you can be

M: The woman went whistlin' over the hill
ALL: O Lady be gay
M: The woman went a whistlin' over the hill
N: "If the devil won't have me, I've done pretty well,"
ALL: Lady be gay if you can be

N: There is an advantage we have over men
ALL: O Lady be gay
There is an advantage we have over men
N: We can go down to hell and come back again
ALL: Lady be gay if you can be

ALL: Lady be gay...
N: ... if you can be.