

## **Rantin' Laddie**

Oft have I played at the cards and dice  
With my bonnie Rantin' Laddie  
But now I'm sitting in my father's hall  
Singing ba to my bastard baby

Oh, if I'd been wise as I've been nice  
And done what my bonnie lad told me  
I'd have been married a year or more  
To my bonnie Rantin' Laddie

Oh, my father dear, he knows me not  
My mother she ignores me  
My friends and relations slight me all  
And the servants, they quite hate me

Is your love a lord or is he a laird  
Or is he but a caddie  
That you so oft call on his name  
Your bonnie Rantin' Laddie

If I had a horse at my command  
As oft times I've had many  
I'd ride away to the gates of Aboyne  
To my bonnie Rantin' Laddie

Then up and spake a kitchen boy  
Saying, though I'm but a caddie  
It's I will run to the Gates of Aboyne  
With a letter to your Rantin' Laddie

And as he ran through Buchanshire  
And Buchan shone so bonnie  
It's there he spied the Earl of Aboyne  
That they call the Rantin' Laddie

And when he looked the letter on  
Oh, but he was sorry  
They've been cruel and fell unkind  
To my bonnie Rantin' Lassie

Oh, my father dear...

Go get thee out 500 men  
And see that they ride so bonny  
We'll bring the lassie back to Aboyne  
The bonnie Rantin' Lassie

When she was up behind his back  
Wrapped in her hieland plaidie  
The birds in the trees sang never so sweet  
As the bonnie Rantin' Lassie

And they rode on through Buchanshire  
And Buchan shone so bonnie  
Rejoice, rejoice ye bonnie maids all  
An see that ye be not sorry

If you lay your love on a lowland lad  
Be sure that he'll betray ye  
But lay your love on a hieland lad  
He'll do all that he can to raise ye

Gordon says:

I first heard this in the late 1960s on the radio, sung by the great collector, singer and writer Ewan MacColl. Soon after, I ran across the words and learned it, and taught it to Cindy when we met in the early 1980s. The chords and bouncy rhythm are ours, but I'd still call this Ewan's version.

*G: 12-String*

*C: steel 6-string*

Traditional, Scots  
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