

# Tulip

Jesca Hoop

Ada, my rarest bud from the desert valley  
Your hair of fire and skin of snow  
Have coursed me to the heights of the desert mountains  
In search of the cure for a rampant fever  
Your beauty's power, it plagues me now  
I come and scour the land for the desert flower

For beauty and perfume I'd stake my house and my lands  
The gold is sleeping in the river but the flower's in  
my hand  
With a paler leaf and a broken petal, I'll paint the  
king and queen  
And to the goldsmith with my flower I'll buy your  
wedding ring

Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
Oxen, sheep and wheat and rye  
Land on the north seaside  
Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
The finest dresses man can buy  
And a pearl for to pay my bride

Then with my rarest bowl to her father's garden  
Like gold for lamb or wool for clam I gave that man a  
bowl for his daughter Ada  
Your heart is mine and it's mine forever  
And she replied, "my fate that lies on yon horizon's  
tethered me to the sky"

The match arranged, and vows exchanged and the dove  
flew away  
The bells spilled out the hollow canyon on our wedding day  
To me she gave her hand and to death do us part  
But the bird will nest with one that she has promised  
her heart

Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
The bed from which our sons will rise  
And the window where she cries  
Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
A net to catch the birds that fly from the window where  
she cries

He reaches out and I withdraw  
Spilling the flowering bribes from his paw  
The broken petals climbing the walls  
Stealing my oxygen, no air at all  
From the bed I hear him call  
But I answer cooing when the night falls  
The cotton sword is storming the hall  
Cutting my vision to no sight at all

I tied the tulip around her neck

Like a red lead sinker  
And blindfold and spin around  
And round and round  
To the banks of the river and then walk  
My true love into the rushing water  
And by her long hair, bleeding red  
Hair-pulled my love there under until she drowner

For beauty and perfume I'd stake my house and my lands  
My love is sleeping in the river but the flower's in my hand  
With a paler leaf and a broken petal  
I'll keep her all to me  
And to the river with my flower  
I'll hear my true love sing

Your water is still in my friend  
Ready to drown  
Water, water oh water my kin  
Carry me out  
This Eine (?) river is mercy at last  
Die as she laughs for  
He's waiting with a dove's nest  
My true love

Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
A veil that parted o'er my bride  
And the breath as my true love died  
Tulip, tulip  
With one word I'd a-buy  
A veil that parted o'er my bride  
And the blue from the bluest eye