A fair young maid went up the street some white fish for to by a bonnie clerk's fall'n in love with her and he followed her by and by oh where are you going my bonnie lass I pray thee tell to me oh if the night be never so dark I'll come and visit thee

my father locks the door at ten
my mother keeps the key
if you were never such a roving blade
you'd never win - in to me
but the clerk he had a brother
and a wily wag was he
he's made him a long ladder
with thirty steps and three

the old wife she was standing by she heard a word was said
I could lay my life, says the silly old wife there's a man in our daughter's bed the old man he got out of bed to see if the thing was true but she's taken the bonny clerk in her arms and covered him o'er with blue

up then got the old silly wife to see if it were true and she fell arselins in the creel and up the string they drew if that foul thief has gotten you may he hold you so tight for you'll never stay in your bed nor rest with me at night

he's towed her up, he's towed her down and given her a right down - fall till every rib an the old wife's side played nick - nack on the wall oh the blue, the bonnie bonnie blue and I wish it may do well and every old wife that's jealous of her daughter get a good kech in the creel