

The Game of Cards

From Silly Sisters: (June Tabor and Maddy Prior)

As I was a walking one midsummer's morning,
I heard the birds whistle and the nightingales play.
And there did I spy a beautiful maiden,
as I was a-walking all on the highway.

O where are you going, my pretty fair lady?
O where are you going so early this morn?
She said: I'm going down to visit my neighbours,
I'm going down to Warwick, the place I was born.

It's May I come with you, my sweet pretty darling?
May I go along in your sweet company-ie?
Then she turned head and smiling all at me,
Saying: You may come with me, kind sir if you please.

We hadn't been walking but a few miles together,
before this young damsel began to show free.
She sat herself down, saying: Sit down beside me.
And the games we shall play shall be one, two and three.

I said: My dear lady. If you're fond of the gaming,
There's one game I know I would like you to learn.
The game it called: "The Game of All Fours"
So I took out my pack and began the first turn.

She cut the cards first and I fell a-dealing.
I dealt her a trump and myself a poor Jack.
She led off her Ace and stole my Jack from me,
Saying: Jack is the card I like best in your pack.

Since I dealt them last time, it's your turn to shuffle,
and my turn to show the best card in the pack.
Once more she'd the Ace and the Deuce for to beat me.
Once again I had lost when I laid down poor Jack.

So I took up my hat and I bid her: Good morning.
I said: You're the best that I know in this game.
She answered: Young man, if you'll come back to-morrow,
We'll play the game over and over and over and over again.