There Is a Tavern in the Town

Lyrics and music perhaps by F. J. Adams, 1891

C	C	
There is a tavern in the town, in the town, G^7	Oh! dig my grave both wide a Wide and deep,	and deep,
And there my true love sits him down,	1	G^7
Sits him down,	Put tombstones at my head an	d feet,
C C^7 F	Head and feet,	
And drinks his wine 'mid laughter free,	C C 7 F	
G^7 C	And on my breast carve a turt	le dove,
And never, never thinks of me.	G^7 C	
ano pua	To signify I died of love.	
CHORUS		
G^7	CHORUS	
Fare thee well, for I must leave thee,		
C Do not let the porting grieve thee		
Do not let the parting grieve thee, G^7	F - C	
And remember that the best of friends must par	- 0	
C	tt, must purt.	
Adieu, adieu, kind friends adieu, yes adieu, C		
I can no longer stay with you, stay with you my C C^7 F	honey,	
I'll hang my heart on a weeping willow tree, G^7		
And may the world go well with thee.		
G^7 C		
He left me for a damsel dark, damsel dark, G^7		
Each Friday night they used to spark, <i>used to s</i> C C F	park,	
And now my love once true to me, G^7		
Takes that dark damsel on his knee.		
CHORUS		



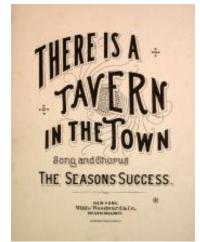
History

Johns Hopkins, Sheridan Libraries & University Museums, The Lester S. Levy Sheet music Collections credits the authorship of "There Is a Tavern in the Town" to F.J. Adams, 1891.

www.folklorist.org/ records a "There Is A Tavern In The Town," Bodleian, Firth Broadside distributed by R. March and Co. (London) sometime during the period 1887 - 1884. The author is not identified.

"There Is a Tavern in the Town" is one of the many variants of the the *Died for Love* theme, originally clustered by Steve Roud as Roud 60.

The singer laments her lover, who courted her ardently but now goes to a tavern and courts others while leaving her pining. She hopefully anticipates dying and being buried.



Vera Aspey sang this song as "**The Blackbird**" on her 1977 Topic album *The Blackbird*. She commented in her sleeve notes: As sung to me by Emma Vickers of Burscough, who as a child often travelled on her grandfather's horse-drawn working boat, carrying coal along the canal, from Leigh to Tanhouse in Liverpool. Once there, he would load with cotton from the docks to transport and unload at various factories on the way to Leeds. It was on such a trip as this that Emma learned "The Blackbird" from the singing of her grandfather, as he steered his boat along the cut.

Laura Smyth sang "There Is a Tavern" on her and Ted Kemp's 2017 CD *The Poacher's Fate*. They noted: Also known as "Died for Love", this song is a lament for love grown cold. It consists of a number of "floating verses", words and phrases which are found in a range of songs, but here combine to express the sentiment of heartache beautifully. This song was sung by Emma Vickers of Burscough, Lancashire. The tune is similar to that used in the traditional ballad concerning "Lord Franklin".

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