

The carrion crow

<https://riverofsong.uk/>



There are many versions of this traditional song, find some of them here: <https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=98836>.

The one below I heard from the singing of Cyril Tawney, 'Children's songs from Devon and Cornwall'. It was also in English Folk Songs for Schools collected and arranged by S. Baring Gould and Cecil Sharp, published 1900.

It was taken down from a Cornishman in 1844.

A car - ri - on crow sat on an oak; Hey, der - ry down, der - ry di - do, —
Watch ing the tail - or mend - ing his cloak; Caw! Caw! the car - ri - on crow,
Hey, der - ry down, der - ry di - do!

A carrion crow sat on an oak, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*
Watching a tailor mending his coat;
Caw! Caw! the carrion crow, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*

Oh, wife, oh wife bring here my bow; *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*
That I may shoot this carrion crow;
Caw! Caw! the carrion crow, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*

The tailor he fired but he missed his mark; *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*
For he shot his old sow right bang through the heart;
Caw! Caw! the carrion crow, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*

Oh, wife, oh wife, bring some brandy in a spoon; *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*
For our old sow's fallen down in a swoon;
Caw! Caw! the carrion crow, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*

Well, the old sow died and the bell did toll; *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*
And the little pigs prayed for the old sow's soul;
Caw! Caw! the carrion crow, *Hey, derry down, derry dido!*