

# Lily of the Valley

## Judy Collins

Lily of the valley  
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Lily of the valleyThey called her 'Lily of the valley'  
And she lived beside the river  
The youngest of her sisters  
And the prettiest of them allShe was courted by the men in town  
She could have married anyone  
The one she made her husband  
Was the handsomest of allThey were married in a chapel  
Lily bore him seven children  
And every night he put her down  
And made her feel ashamedHe took the face she used to wear  
And put a look of sorrow there  
The more he made her suffer  
The more she felt to blameNo more tears Lily, don't cry anymore  
Tears of yours won't fall another time  
Don't cry Lily we know how you've tried  
Fighting for your life was not a crimeOne night Lily turned to him  
Before he raised his hand to her  
One more time she said  
And not againHe laughed and threw another punch  
The blow knocked Lily to the floor  
Somehow she grabbed the kitchen knife  
And stabbed her husband deadThe jury they decided  
It was murder in the first degree  
They said she had provoked him  
With her wild and wicked talkThey hanged her by the river  
Where so many times she wandered  
And left her children motherless  
In sorrow and in shockNo more tears Lily, don't cry anymore  
Tears of yours won't fall another time  
Don't cry Lily we know how you've tried  
Fighting for your life was not a crimeA soldier in a uniform  
Is meant to kill the enemy  
But Lilly in her own defense  
Was framed to take the fallHer children watched their father beat  
Their mother all too often  
The battlefields of families  
Are the saddest of them allThe willow weeps for Lily

As its branches touch the water  
The wind is crying, "Lily"  
As it sighs along the shoreThe river's singing "Lily  
We all know that you are innocent"  
You were promised marriage  
But you had to fight a warNo more tears Lily, don't cry anymore  
Tears of yours won't fall another time  
Don't cry Lily we know how you've tried  
Fighting for your life was not a crimeLily of the valley  
Lily of the valley  
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