Tulip (Undressed)

Jesca Hoop

Ada, my rarest bud from the desert valley
Your hair of fire and skin of snow
Have coursed me to the heights of the desert mountains
In search of the cure for a rampant fever
Your beauty's power, it plagues me now
I come and scour the land for the desert flowerFor beauty and perfume I'd stake my house and my lands
The gold is sleeping in the river but the flower's in my hand
With a paler leaf and a broken petal, I'll paint the king and queen
And to the goldsmith with my flower I'll buy your wedding ringTulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
Oxen, sheep and wheat and rye
Land on the north seaside
Tulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
The finest dresses man can buy
And a pearl for to pay my brideThen with my rarest bowl to her father's garden
Like gold for lamb or wool for clam I gave that man a bowl for his daughter Ada
Your heart is mine and it's mine forever
And she replied, "my fate that lies on yon horizon's tethered me to the sky"The match arranged, and vows exchanged and the dove flew away
The bells spilled out the hollow canyon on our wedding day
To me she gave her hand and to death do us part
But the bird will nest with one that she has promised her heartTulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
The bed from which our sons will rise
And the window where she cries
Tulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
A net to catch the birds that fly from the window where she criesHe reaches out and I withdraw
Spilling the flowering bribes from his paw
The broken petals climbing the walls
Stealing my oxygen, no air at all
From the bed I hear him call
But I answer cooing when the night falls
The cotton sword is storming the hall
Cutting my vision to no sight at allI tied the tulip around her neck
Like a red lead sinker
And blindfold and spin around
And round and round

To the banks of the river and then walk
My true love into the rushing water
And by her long hair, bleeding red
Hair-pulled my love there under until she drownFor beauty and perfume I'd stake my house and my lands
My love is sleeping in the river but the flower's in my hand
With a paler leaf and a broken petal
I'll keep her all to me
And to the river with my flower
I'll hear my true love singYour water is still in my friend
Ready to drown
Water, water oh water my kin
Carry me out
This Eine river is mercy at last
Die as she laughs for
He's waiting with a dove's nest
My true loveTulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
A veil that parted o'er my bride
And the breath as my true love died
Tulip, tulip
With one word I'd a-buy
A veil that parted o'er my bride
And the blue from the bluest eye

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