

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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