

The Raven on the Garden Wall

Taija Paju (Kaarina Eerikintytär)

C G C Dm C G

"Twas an af - ter-noon in ear - ly May, a beau - ti - ful and a sun - ny day. I was

5 C Em Am C Dm C G

sitt - ing und - er a cher - ry tree, when a sud - den sound star - tled me: "My

9 C F C Am C G7 Am

la - dy fair, pray hear my call!" said the ra - ven on the gar - den wall.

2. I looked up and I saw a bird
whose croaky voice I had just heard.
He was as black as the winter night
and his eyes were gleaming bright.
"I have tidings for this hall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

3. "I have flown for over a week
for, my lady, you I did seek.
In France I have built my nest,
but this spring we had no rest:
There was a war, I saw it all",
said the raven on the garden wall.

4. When I was young I used to live here,
this town and its people I hold dear.
For old friends I came all this way,
but for long I cannot stay.
I knew your Richard, young and tall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

5. "So proudly he stood on the field,
wielding his sword and holding his shield.
One week ago, that evening late,
the losses on either side were great.
I saw him fight, I saw him fall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

6. I tried to breathe, I did my best,
but I felt the heart stop in my chest.
"Without him I can't live!" I cried.
The bird tilted his head to the side:
"My lady, your child is but small",
said the raven on the garden wall.

7. "Like a hatchling, young and weak,
from you he will comfort seek.
So keep him safe and keep him sound,
to that duty you are bound.
For his sake you must not fall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

8. "Oh Richard, please come home to me,
you must not be dead, it cannot be!
Wake me from this awful sleep!"
The bird sat still and watched me weep.
"Have your cry, then stand up tall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

9. "He will not come and you will not wake,
rather pray for his soul's sake.
Your Richard and his comrades lie
on a field 'neath a foreign sky.
You may feel that you've lost all",
said the raven on the garden wall.

10. "You'll have to work hard, that I can tell,
to manage these lands and do it well.
Do it for yourself and the lad.
I'm sorry that my news were sad,
but I wish time brings joy to this hall",
said the raven on the garden wall.

11. "Time will heal, or so they say,
and there will be another May,
when I will not bring you a word
that you wish you had not heard.
I bid farewell, I have places to call",
said the raven on the garden wall.