The Wild White Rose





"Today I left the town behind To wander green country lane, And now I'll take this wild white rose, Of summer back on the train." "Now stay your hand you gipsy townsman, Who wanders the lane for all of a day, The wild white rose is the summer's glory, Why pray, take me away?"

"But who should care if one wild rose Should fade from summer-blue sky? And who will know I leave you to grow, My careless pleasure deny?" "The bee that hums the brambled hedgerow, The badger that haunts the fields of the night, The bird that sings of summer treasure, These your gifts will delight."

"And who will thank my kindly deed In sparing wild summer rose? No voice of praise will favour me But the grateful croaking of crows." "The wind that sings of pardoned flowers Will thankfully praise the deed you have done, And voices sweet her tale repeat In dawn-long bright as the sun."

"And should I turn my hand away, The hedgerow leaving unflawed, And should I spare one wild white rose, What then shall be my reward?" "When next you leave the town behind you, In green country lane to take your delight, The summer day will grace your way With wild rose blossoming bright."