

‘Reynardine’ performed by Annie Harding

*One evening as I rambled among the springing thyme
I overheard a young woman conversing with Reynardine.*

*Her hair was black, her eyes were blue and his hands red as wine.
And he smiled as he looked upon her, did this sly bold Reynardine.*

*She said, “Young man, be civil and my company forsake.
For it’s in my good opinion I fear you are a rake.”*

*He said, “My dear, I am no rake brought up in Venus’ train.
But I’m seeking for concealment all from the sheriff’s men.”*

*And her rosy cheeks and ruby lip, they lost their former dye.
And she fell into his arms then all on the mountain high.*

Recorded by Jim Etheridge at Chelmsford Folk Club on 7 November 1982. The song is a traditional English ballad, more commonly called ‘The Mountains High’ but recorded by A.L. Lloyd as ‘Reynardine’, linking the title figure to the fox and folk trickster Reynard. Read more about the recording on Essex Archives Online: [SA 30/6/428/1](#)