

Key: C  
Tuning: GCGCD

# False Sir John

Based on the version by  
Jean Ritchie

Tab by Kasey Jessop

## Vocal backup

Vocal backup guitar tab for the song "False Sir John". The tab is written on six-line staves with chord diagrams and lyrics. The lyrics are: "False sir John a woo-ing came to a lad-y young and fair May Col-vin was this lad-y's name and her fath-er's on-ly heir her fath-er's on-ly heir". The tab includes various fret numbers, string numbers, and rhythmic markings such as "2", "4", and "Z".

## Instrumental

Instrumental guitar tab for the song "False Sir John". The tab is written on six-line staves with chord diagrams and technical markings. It includes fret numbers, string numbers, and rhythmic markings such as "2", "4", "Z", "h", "T", "X", and "3". A specific marking "(Galax lick)" with an upward arrow is present in the third measure of the second system.

## False Sir John – Lyrics

[Verse 1]

False Sir John a-wooning came  
To a lady young and fair  
May Colvin was this lady's name  
And her father's only heir  
Her father's only heir

[Verse 2]

He wooed her while she spun the thread  
And while they made the hay  
Until he gained her low consent  
To mount and ride away  
To mount and ride away

[Verse 3]

"It's a-bring me some of your father's gold  
And some of your mother's fee  
I'll take thee to some far-off land  
There I'll marry thee  
And there I'll marry thee"

[Verse 4]

She's gone into her father's coffer  
Where all of his monies lay  
She's took the yellow and left the white  
And lightly skipped away  
And lightly skipped away

[Verse 5]

She's gone into her father's stables  
Where all of his steeds did stand  
She's took the best and left the worst  
In all of her father's land  
In all of her father's land

[Verse 6]

She's mounted on a milk-white steed  
And he on a dapple grey  
And they rode 'til they come to a lonesome  
spot  
A cliff by the side of the sea  
A cliff by the side of the sea

[Verse 7]

"Light down, light down," said false Sir John  
"Your bridal bed you'll see:  
It's seven women have I drowned here  
And the eighth one you shall be  
And the eighth one you shall be

[Verse 8]

"Have off, have off your Holland smock  
With borders all around  
For it's too costly to lay down here  
And rot on the cold, cold ground  
And rot on the cold, cold ground

[Verse 9]

"Cast off, cast off your silk so fine  
And lay them on a stone  
For they're too fine and costly  
To rot in the salt sea foam  
To rot in the salt sea foam

[Verse 10]

"Take off, take off your silken stays  
Likewise your handsome shoes  
For they're too fine and costly  
To rot in the sea with you  
To rot in the sea with you"

[Verse 11]

"Turn around, turn around, thou false Sir John  
And gaze at the leaves on the trees  
For it don't become a gentleman  
A naked woman to see  
A naked woman to see"

[Verse 12]

It's false Sir John has turned around  
To gaze at the leaves on the trees  
She's made a dash with her tender little arms  
And pushed him into the sea  
And pushed him into the sea

[Verse 13]

"Oh, help! oh, help! May Colvin!  
Oh, help, or I shall drown!  
I'll take thee back to the father's house  
And lightly set you down  
And lightly set you down"

[Verse 14]

"No help, no help, thou false Sir John  
"No help will you get from me  
The bed's no colder to you, sir  
Than you thought to give to me  
Than you thought to give it to me"

[Verse 15]

She's mounted on the milk-white steed  
And led the dapple grey  
And rode 'til she come to her father's house  
At the breaking' of the day  
At the breaking' of the day

[Verse 16]

Then up and spoke the little parrot  
Said, "May Colvin, where have you been?  
And what have you done with false Sir John  
That went with you riding'  
That went with you riding'?"

[Verse 17]

"Hold your tongue, hold your tongue, you little  
parrot  
And tell no tales on me  
And I'll give you a cage of beaten gold  
With spokes of ivory  
With spokes of ivory"