

Long Black Veil

By Don Williams



Ten years ago on a cold dark night/light
A man was _____ beneath the town hall night/light
There were few at the scene but they all agreed
That the slayer/player who ran looked a lot like me.

The judge said, Son what is your alibi?
If you were somewhere else then you won't have to die/lie
Well, I spoke/smoke not a word though it meant my life/wife
For I had been in the arms of my best friends wife.

She walks these hills/fields in a long black veil/tail
She visits my grave when the night winds wail/fail
Nobody knows, nobody sees,
Nobody knows, but me.

The scaffold is high an eternity nears/clears
She stood in the crowd, shed not a tear
But sometimes at night when the cold winds moan
She comes to my grave and she cries/climbs on my bones/boat.

She walks/talks these hills in a long black veil
She visits my grave when the night winds wail
Nobody knows, nobody sees,
Nobody knows, but me...

Discussion Questions.

- Q.1 What would you have done if you were in the man's position?
Q.2 What would you have done if you were the woman?

Listening & Vocabulary

Exercise

1. Listen to the song and underline the correct words in bold letters.
2. Listen and Fill in the blank spaces where you find words missing.
3. Attempt an explanation of the following words:
eternity, alibi, crowd, grave, slayer.
4. What do these expressions mean:
shed tears, cold winds moan

Comprehension and opinion Questions.

1. What happened ten years ago?
2. What did the eyewitnesses testify?
3. Was the man guilty of murder?
4. What did the Judge ask the accused?
5. Why did the accused not say anything to defend himself?
6. Why did the woman not defend the accused?
7. What happened to the accused in the end?
8. What does the woman do his grave?
9. Do you think the accused was justly sentenced?
10. What crime is the accused actually guilty of? Is his death fair?

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That the slayer who ran looked a lot like me.

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If you were somewhere else then you won't have to die
Well, I spoke not a word though it meant my life
For *I had been in the arms of my best friends wife*.

She walks these fields in a long black veil
She visits my *grave* when the night winds wail
Nobody knows, nobody sees,
Nobody knows, but me.

The scaffold is high an *eternity* nears
She stood in the *crowd*, shed not a tear
But sometimes at night when the cold winds moan
She comes to my grave and she cries on my bones.

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