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**[ROSAMUND MARRIOTT WATSON]**

**“A Ballad of the Were-Wolf”**  
[in Scottish dialect]

The gudewife* sits i' the chimney-neuk*	*wife; nook
An' looks on the loupin* flame;	*leaping
The rain fa's* chill, and the win' ca's* shrill,	*falls; calls
Ere the auld* gudeman* comes hame.*	*old; husband; home
“Oh, why is your cheek sae* wan, gudewife?	*so
An' why do ye glower on me?	
Sae dour ye luik* i' the chimney-neuk,	*look
Wi' the red licht* in your e'e!	*light
“Yet this nicht* should ye welcome me,	*night
This *ae nicht mair than a',	*one night more than all
For I hae* scotched* yon great grey wolf	*have; “neutralized”
That took our *bairnies twa.	*two little children
“’Twas a sair*, sair strife for my very life,	*painful or difficult
As I warstled* there my lane;	*wrestled alone
But I'll hae her heart or e'er we part,	
Gin* ever we meet again.	*in case
“An' 'twas ae sharp stroke o' my bonny knife	
That *gar'd her haud awa';	*[idiom]: forced her hold to loosen
Fu'* fast she went *out-owre the bent	*full; across the moorland
Wi'outen* her right fore-paw.	*without
“Gae* tak' the foot, o' the drumlie* brute,	*go; turbid or troubled
And hang it upo' the wa';	
An' the next time that we meet, gudewife,	
The tane* of us shall fa'.”	*[idiom]: one or the other
He's flung his pouch on the gudewife's lap,	
I' the firelicht shinin' fair,	
Yet naught they saw o' the grey wolf's paw,	
For a bluidy* hand lay there.	*bloody
O hooly*, hooly rose she up,	*slowly and carefully

Wi' the red licht in her e'e,  
Till she stude\* but a \*span frae the auld gudeman \*stood; an (extended) hand's-breadth  
Whiles never a word spak'\* she. \*spoke

But she stripped the \*claiths frae her \*lang richt arm, \*cloths from; long right  
That were wrappit roun' and roun',  
The first was white, an' the last was red;  
And the fresh bluid dreeped\* adown. \*dripped

She stretchit him out her lang right arm,  
An' \*cauld as the deid stude he. \*cold as the dead  
The flames louped bricht i' the \*gloamin' licht— \*twilight  
There was nae hand there to see!—

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