

The Death of Ned Kelly

Written by John Manifold (1915–85) and published in Bandicoot Ballads in 1951. Bandicoot Ballads were loose leaf ballad broadsheets of Australian folk song published by Rams Skull Press and illustrated by Ron Edwards. There were sold in two sets of 8 songs.

Capo 2

Ned Kel - ly fought the rich men in coun - try and in town,
Ned Kel - ly fought the troop - ers un - til they ran him down;
He thought that he had fooled them, for he was hard to find,
But he rode in - to Glen - row - an with the troop - ers close be - hind.

Chords: Am, Bm, E7, F#7, C, D, G, A, Dm, Em, E, F#, Am, Bm, E7, F#7, Am, Bm.

'Come out of that, Ned Kelly,' the head zarucker calls,
'Come out and leave your shelter, or we'll shoot it full of holes.'
'If you'd take me,' says Kelly, 'that's not the speech to use;
I've lived to spite your order, I'll die the way I choose!'

'Come out of that, Ned Kelly, you done a lawless thing;
You robbed and fought the squatters, Ned Kelly, you must swing.'
'If those who rob,' says Kelly, 'are all condemned to die,
You had better hang the squatters; for they've stolen more than I.'

'You'd best come out, Ned Kelly, you done the Government wrong,
For you held up the coaches that bring the gold along.'
'Go tell your boss,' says Kelly, 'who lets the rich go free,
That your bloody rich man's government will never govern me.'

They burned the roof above him, they fired the walls about,
And head to foot in armour Ned Kelly stumbled out;
Although his guns were empty he made them turn and flee,
But one came in behind him and shot him in the knee.

And so they took Ned Kelly and hanged him in the jail,
For he fought single-handed although in iron mail.
But no man single-handed can hope to break the bars;
It's a thousand like Ned Kelly who'll hoist the flag of stars.