

# Vigil (For Gerda)

Raven Kaldera

La - dy of bri - ar rose climb - ing the walls, \_\_\_ Watch - ing the grain \_\_\_ that you  
know will soon fall, As gold as the locks \_\_\_ of your lov - er so tall, As the  
sum - mer comes down from its height. \_\_\_ Day af - ter day \_\_\_ all the fes - ti - vals  
go, And then comes the day \_\_\_ when he walks down the road, \_\_\_ And the peo - ple all  
fol - low to see the blood flow, And to watch your tears soon run be - hind. \_\_\_  
La - dy of wood - ruff and buck - thorn and bay, You know ev - ery bright year turns at  
last to this day, When the folk must be fed \_\_\_ and the debt must be paid, \_\_\_ the  
price of the sun and the rain. \_\_\_ He fac - es his moth - er in bil - low - ing  
black, Will this be the one \_\_\_ time he'll nev - er come back? And the sick - le like  
light - ning, on - ly you feel the pain, \_\_\_ And the scar - let that splash - es the grain. \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ La - dy of cleav - ers and broom from the land, \_\_\_ They've laid out his  
bo - dy and here you must stand, And guard him as fierce - ly as on - ly you can, And

G A E

wait for the first breath to come. The quilt in your arms, like the patch-

D G A

work of fields, that waits to en-fold him like hearth-fire and shield, Is

E D G

wet with the tears you must shed ev-ery year As a beacon to lead him safe

A E D G

home. La-dy of ram-pi-on, rose-root and rue, Could you ev-er be-lieve

A E D

it would one day be you Who is ev-er now bound to the path of the Bride,

G A E

and the end-ing that comes at his side. For this is the way, with each

D G A

shud-der-ing breath, To bring back a lo-ver from the far edge of death, You must

E D G

mourn to the depth of your heart giv-en whole, and pray with the breadth of your

A E D G

soul. La-dy of hys-sop and el-e-cam-pane, They've all gone to their

A E D

beds and they don't see your pain, Or the bril-liant sun-rise as he o-pens his

G A

eyes, And your kiss is the first breath of day. The

E D A E D A

first breath of day, For this is the way, For

E

this is the way.