



**“Sweet Violets”** (Chorus by Joseph Emmet)

There [C] once was a farmer who [F] took a young [G7] miss  
 In [G7] back of the barn where he gave her a  
 [C] Lecture on horses and [F] chickens and [G7] eggs  
 And [G7] told her that she had such beautiful  
 [C] Manners that suited a [F] girl of her [G7] charms  
 [G7] A girl that he wanted to take in his  
 [C] Washing and ironing and [F] then if she [G7] did  
 [G7] They could get married and raise lots of

[C] Sweet violets, sweeter than [F] all the [G7] roses  
 [G7] Covered all over from head to toe  
 [G7] Covered all over with [C] sweet [F] vi-[G7]-o-[C] lets.

The [C] girl told the farmer that [F] he'd better [G7] stop  
 Or [G7] she'd call her father and he'd call a  
 [C] Taxi and get there be-[F] fore very [G7] long  
 'Cuz [G7] someone was doing his little girl  
 [C] Right for a change and so [F] then the man [G7] said,  
 “If [G7] you marry her son you're better off  
 [C] Single 'cuz it's always [F] been my be- [G7] lief  
 That [G7] marriage will bring a man nothing but....”

[C] Sweet violets, sweeter than [F] all the [G7] roses  
 [G7] Covered all over from head to toe  
 [G7] Covered all over with [C] sweet [F] vi-[G7]-o-[C] lets.

An American song that contains classic example of a ["censored rhyme"](#), where the expected rhyme of each couplet is replaced with an unexpected word which segues into the next couplet or chorus. The chorus is taken nearly verbatim from the song "Sweet Violets" by [Joseph Emmet](#), from his 1882 play *Fritz Among the Gypsies* and recorded by [Dinah Shore](#) with Henri René's Orchestra & Chorus in [Hollywood](#) on May 20, 1951.