

Earl Richard
(The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughter)

1. There was a shep-herd's daught-er kept sheep up-on the
hill. There was a sir come rid - - ing by and he
fain would have his will and he fain would have his will.

2. "If you should have your will of me, pray tell to me your name,
So when my baby it is born I might call him the same."
3. "Oh some they call me Jack," he said, "and some they call me John,
But when I'm in the King's own court, my name is Sweet William."
4. He mounted on his milk white stead and away from her did ride;
She's lifted up her petticoats and run close by his side.
5. She ran till she came to the riverside, she fell on her belly and swam;
She swam till she came to the other side, took to her heels and ran.
6. She ran till she came to the King's own court and boldly pulled the ring,
And none were so ready but the King himself to let this fair maid in.
7. "What brings you here, my pretty fair maid, what brings you here?", says he,
"It's of a knight in your own court this day has robbed me."
8. "What has he robbed you of, fair maid, has he stolen all your fee?"
"No, he's robbed me of my maidenhead that my mother has give to me."
9. "Well if he be a married man then it's hanged he shall be,
But if he be a single man, his body I'll give to thee."
10. And he called down his merry men all by one, by two, by three,
Sweet William he came last of all when first he used to be.
11. And he pulled out a handful of gold, he put it all in a glove.
"Take this, take this, my pretty fair miss, go seek for another true love."
12. "Oh I'll not have any of your gold nor any of your fee,
But I will take your sweet body that the King has granted me."
13. He mounted on a milk white stead and she upon another;
They rode along the King's highway like sister and like brother.

14. They rode till they came to the first fair town, he bought her a gay gold ring,
And when they got to the next fair town, he gave her a gay wedding.
15. "Well I wish I were drinking a bath of water instead of drinking wine
Before an old shepherd's daughter would have been a bride of mine.
16. I wish I were drinking white wine instead of drinking red
Before an old shepherd-s daughter would bring me to my wedding bed."

Source: Sung by Mary Anne Clayton at Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp Jan 13th 1909.

Notes: Tune and 1st verse collected from Mary Ann Clayton. Remaining verses from another version.

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