

The Green Bed

1. I'll tell you a sto - - ry a sto - - ry of
 old It's of a young sai - - lor whose name it was John
 He had been to sea and he had come back and he
 called at the old house and he called at the
 old house he oft - - en times called at.

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| <p>2. He told them his money
 It was growing short
 He asked them to trust him
 The answer was "Nay,
 Friend, if you've no money,
 You must call another day.</p> <p>3. Now John being worried
 He hung down his head,
 He asked for a candle
 To light him up to bed.
 "Our beds are all full, John,
 And have been this week,
 so now for fresh lodgings
 You must go and seek."</p> <p>4. "Oh, what is your reckoning,
 Since you have been so bold?
 "It's four and twenty shillings, John,
 You've owed to me from old."
 And with that he pulled out
 Two hands full of gold.</p> <p>5. The sight of that money
 Made the old landlady rue,
 "My daughter is not busy, John,
 She can come down to you,
 Or else I will trust you
 With a pot or two."</p> | <p>6. Down came her daughter
 Dressed all in her best
 "The words that were spoken, John,
 Were only in jest.
 Polly will happy be at last."
 She kissed him and cuddled him
 And called him her Dear.
 "The green bed is ready, John,
 You can lie there."</p> <p>7. "Before I would lie there
 I would lie in the street
 And now for fresh lodgings
 I will go and seek,
 For if I'd no money
 Out of door I'd be turned,
 So you and your mother
 Deserve to be burned."</p> <p>8. So come all you young sailor boys
 Who plough the radiant main,
 Who work for your money through
 The cold wind and rain,
 If you have any money
 I pray you, lay it up in store,
 It will be your good companion
 When you're turned out of door.</p> |
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Source: Sung by Mrs. Mary Anne Clayton (64) at Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp Jan 13th 1909. .

Notes: Mrs Clayton only sang one verse to Cecil Sharp so words have been provided from another version.