

The Shepherdess

Twas of a pret-ty young shep - herd-ess was kee ___ ping of her
sheep on a rock that was near ___ the sea - - side and a
brisk young sai - - lor boy. By ___ chance he came that way ___ and he ___
fair would have ma - - de her his bride

2. The weather was warm and she lay down to sleep,
And her lambs were sweetly at play;
He kissed her sweet lips as she lay there asleep
And he cried - 'You've stole my heart away.'
3. She woke with surprise, and opened her eyes,
And saw the young sailor standing by -
'Oh fie, young man!' said she, 'How came you here by me?'
And with that she began to cry.
4. 'Why, I'm just come from sea, from the ship that you see,
And the rest they are landed on shore;
I hope, my dearest dear, I shall find some comfort here,
Or else I am done for evermore.'
5. 'Oh sailor,' said she, 'if I could fancy thee
I never would give my consent;
For while you are on the seas I should never take my ease,
And you'd leave me behind to lament.'
6. 'O shepherdess,' said he, 'if you can fancy me
I've gold and I've silver in store;
The sea I will forsake, and a promise I will make,
Unto you I'll be true for evermore.'

Source: John Mason at Stow on the Wold. Collected by Cecil Sharp 28 March 1907.

Notes: John Mason only sang the first verse to Sharp. The remainder is from a similar version.