

The Crafty Maid's Policy

(I Met a Fair Damsel)

1. [Lis - ten a while and I'll sing you a song _____ of
three me - - rry gent - - le - - men ri - - ding a - - long. I
met a fair dam - sel, these words [I] did say, "I'm a - -
fraid this cold morn - ing will do you some harm."

1. [Come listen awhile and I'll sing you a song
Of three merry gentlemen riding along.]
I met a fair damsel, these words [I] did say,
"I'm afraid the cold morning dew will do you some harm."
2. "Oh, no, kind sir, you are sadly mistaken.
The cold morning dew won't do me no harm."
[There's one thing I crave that lies twixt your legs
If you give me that, it will keep me warm."]
3. "My dear, since you've craved it, my love you shall have it
If you will go with me to yonder shady tree.
Then since you do crave it, my dear, you shall have it,
I'll make these two gentlemen witness to be."
4. [So the gentlemen lighted and straightway she mounted,
And looking the gentlemen hard in the face,]
For you'll not know my meaning; he's wrong understood me.
And away she went galloping down the long lane.
5. Said one of you gentlemen, "Lend me your horse,
That I might ride out a-down the long lane.
If I overtake her, I warrant I'll make her
Return me my horse home again."
6. As soon as she saw O the fair one a-coming
She boldly took hold of the pistol in hand.
Saying, "Doubt not my skill but you I would kill,
I'll have you stand back [or] you are a dead man."

7. [Oh, why do you spend your time here in talking?
Oh, why do you spend your time here in vain?]
"Come give her a guinea, it's what she deserves it.
I warrant she'll turn your horse home again.

8. "Oh no, kind sir, you are sadly mistaken.
[If it is his loss, well, it is my gain.]
That horse it was freely given unto me."
[And away she went galloping over the plain.]

Source: Sung by Isabel Fletcher, Cinderford. Collected by Cecil Sharp 7 Sep 1919 (words only)
Isabel Fletcher's text was rather jumbled so it has been amended and completed here
From a broadside version. Tune from William Hedges of Chipping Campden.

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