

The Crafty Maid's Policy (I Met a Fair Damsel)

1. I met a fair damsel, these words she did say,
"I'm afraid the cold morning dew will do you some harm."
"Oh, no, kind sir, you are sadly mistaken.
The cold morning dew won't do me no harm."
2. "There is one thing I crave, love, if you give me that, my love,
I'll warrant and say it will keep me.
"My dear, since you've craved it, my love you shall have it
If you will go with me to yonder shady tree."
3. He got off his horse. Don't you see how he's mounted,
For you'll not know my meaning; he's wrong understood me.
And away she went galloping down the long lane.
4. "Say one of you gentlemen, lend me your horse, love
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.
5. As soon as she saw O the fair one a-coming
She boldly took hold of the pistol in hand.
If it is at the last time, my mind I'll fulfill, my love.
I'll have you stand back if you are a dead man.
6. You'll give her one gently; it's what she deserves it.
I warrant she'll turn your horse home again.
"Oh no, kind sir, you are sadly mistaken.
That horse it was freely given unto me.

Source: Sung by Isabel Fletcher, Cinderford. Collected by Cecil Sharp 7 Sep 1919 (words only)