

The Croppy Tailor

There was an old tai - - lor he lived in Fair - - mye,
And on this old dough - nut he did fix his eye
He swore he would have her or else he would die
While the keep - - er was out up - - on du - - ty.

2. He said 'Dearest woman your husband's on the deep,
Ten guineas I'll give you this night with you to sleep.'
[For into the room I will silently creep,]
While your husband is out upon duty.'

3. They tossed and they tumbled till about one o'clock,
Up came the bold bo'sun the doors for to knock.
He woke the little tailor right our of his sleep
Saying 'Where shall I run to or where shall I creep?
For I hear the bold knock from the trooper.'

[Or 3. They stripped off their clothes and jumped into bed,
The thoughts of the trooper never ran in his head;
'Oh hide me, oh hide me,' the poor tailor said,
'For I hear the bold knock of the trooper.']

4. 'There is an old cupboard stands gang the old door
And it's in it you'll get, you'll be safe that's for sure
I will go down and I will let him in
[And welcome my husband', the trooper.']

5. [Then she went down and she opened the door]
With kisses and comfort like man and wife should.'
[Your kisses and comforts they make me full sore]
Will you light me a fire to my supper.'

6. She said 'Dearest husband, there is no fire stuff
If you jump in bed with me you'll be quite warm enough.'
He said 'There is an old cupboard stands behind the old door
And I'll burn it tonight,' says the trooper.

7. 'Oh no dearest husband, [O grant my desire
The old corner cupboard's too good for the fire]
For it's in it I keep my gamecock I admire.'
'Show me your gamecock, said the keeper.'
8. He hauled the old cupboard from behind the old door
[And there sat the tailor so safe and so sure]
And he hauled the little tailor right out on the floor.
He said 'Is this your gamecock?' said the trooper.
9. He asked for the scissors and then for the shears
And he clipped off the tips of the poor tailor's ears,
He gave him a kick and a bash and a blow,
And away run the poor croppy tailor.
10. Said the old tailor 'You've done it all right
I've had your old wife for the most of the night.'
[Saying, 'For my night's lodging I've paid very dear']
And away run the poor croppy tailor.

Source: Danny Brazil at Staverton, 5th March 1978, collected by Gwilym Davies
Extra words in brackets noted by Peter Shepheard from Danny Brazil.
The tune resembles the first part of the Irish jig 'Rakes of Kildare'.