

The Baffled Knight (The Dew on the Grass)

*Collected in Hadleigh Suffolk on 3rd-4th Sept 1907 by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Sung By Mr Jake Willis (Crimean War & Indian Mutiny Veteran)*



1. As I walked out one midsummer morn
All in the month of May, sir,
O there I beheld a fair pretty maid
A-making of the hay, sir.

Chorus (after each verse):
Fol de lie de lay

2. I boldly stepped up to her
And asked her to lay down, sir.
The answer that she gave me:
The dew is on the ground, sir.

3. Wait till you get to my father's house
Where you may lay me down, sir;
Where you can have my maidenhead
All on a bed of down, sir.

4. O when she got to her father's hall,
That was walled in all round, sir.
She stepped in and shut the door,
And shut the young man out, sir.

5. When you met with me at first
You did not meet a fool, sir;
You may take your Bible under your arm
And go a little more to school, sir.

6. And when you meet a pretty maid
Little below the town, sir;
You must not mind her squalling
Nor the rumpling of her gown, sir.

7. There is a cock in my father's yard,
He will not tread the hen, sir;
And I do think in my very heart
That you are one of them, sir.

8. There is a flower in my father's garden,
it's called a marigold, sir,
And if you will not when you may
You shall not when you will, sir.

Transcribed, as written, from Ralph Vaughan Williams's original manuscript by Maggie Moore and Stan Bloor 2023. A scan of the manuscript is available from the The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library <https://www.vwml.org/record/RVW2/1/11>
nb. No tempo information was recorded so the tempo on this abc file has been arbitrarily set by the transcribers.