

Come All You Roaring Boys

*Collected in Hadleigh Suffolk on 3rd Sept 1907 by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Sung by a man from Stepney who was in Semer Workhouse*



1. Come all you roaring boys that delight
in seaman's fare.
Come listen awhile to my song.
For when Jack comes on shore with his gold
and silver store.
There's none can get rid of it so soon.
2. The first thing Jack demands is the
fiddle in his hands.
And good liquor of every kind.
With a pretty girl likewise with two dark
and rolling eyes.
And Jack Tar is suited to his mind.
3. The landlady she rolls in; when she finds
him in good trim.
She appears like an evening star.
She's ready to wait on him when she finds
him in good trim.
And she chalks him down two for one at the bar.
4. Now this game goes very well til Jack's money is all gone,
When the old girl begins for to frown.
With a nasty glaring eye and a cat's string loosely tied
Saying, "You, sailor, it is time you were gone".
5. Now Jacky in a rage threw the candlestick
at her head.
And the glasses of every kind.
When the old girl in a fright called the watchmen
of the night.
Saying, "Take this jolly sailor to be gone".
6. Now Jack he understands there's a ship in
want of hands,
To the East Indies they are bound.
With a sweet and pleasant gale Jack unfolds the
lofty sail.
And bids farewell to the girls of the town.
7. You may lay her on a tack like a cutter or
a smack.
As she rolls from the lee to the weather.
You may sail her in the wind's eye, that's as close
as she will lie.
And I'm sure she'll afford you much pleasure.

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/RVW2/1/16>
nb. No tempo information was recorded so the tempo on this abc file has been arbitrarily set by the transcribers.