

## Irving Berlin

### "If I Thought You Wouldn't Tell 14 Oct 1909"

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1st verse:]

A maiden pretty from Jersey City  
Paid a visit to some cousins out of town  
She answered, "Mercy" when cousin Percy  
Said, "I'd dearly love to show you all around"  
Like bees a-buzzin'  
She and her cousin  
Were together ev'ry minute of the day  
One night he kissed her, she shouted, "Mister"  
But he answered in a cute and cunning way

[chorus:]

If I thought you wouldn't tell your mother  
I would try and take one more  
Promise not to tell your father or your brother  
And I'll make it three or four  
If I thought that you could keep a secret  
I would keep you busy, Nell  
I'd forget that I'm your cousin  
And I'd take a half a dozen  
If I only thought you wouldn't tell

[2nd verse:]

One evening early, he took the girlie  
To a restaurant where drinks are often tried  
He ordered porter, she ordered water  
Then she said, "I'll take a cocktail on the side"  
She drank a dozen  
Just then her cousin  
Whispered, "Dearie, don't you think we should go  
home?"  
She answered, "Later, please call the waiter"  
Then she murmured in a rather husky tone

[2nd chorus:]

If I thought you wouldn't tell your mother  
I would try and take one more  
Promise not to tell your father or your brother  
And I'll make it three or four  
If I thought that you could keep a secret  
I would take all they would sell

I'd forget that I'm your cousin  
And I'd take a half a dozen  
If I only thought you wouldn't tell

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