

## Irving Berlin

# "Woodman Woodman Spare That Tree 27 Jun 1911"

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Words and music by Irving Berlin and Vincent Bryan]

[1st verse:]

A great big tree grows near our house  
It's been there quite some time  
This tree's a slipp'ry elm tree and very hard to climb  
But when my wife starts after me, up in that tree I roost  
I go up like a healthy squirrel and never need no boost  
The other day a woodman came to chop the refuge  
down  
And carve it into kindling wood, to peddle 'round the  
town  
I says to him, "I pray thee cease, desist, refrain and  
stop  
Lay down that razor, man, chop not a single chop"

[chorus:]

Woodman, woodman, spare that tree  
Touch not a single bough  
For years it has protected me  
And I'll protect it now  
Chop down an oak, a birch or pine  
But not this slipp'ry elm of mine  
It's the only tree that my wife can't climb  
So spare that tree

[2nd verse:]

I said to him, "You see that hole  
Up near that old treetop  
I've got five dollars there, that's yours, if you refrain to  
chop  
No beast but me can climb that tree, 'cause it's too  
slippery  
I can't get up myself, unless my wife is after me  
So get my wife and I'll call her a very naughty word  
And then you'll see me give an imitation of a bird  
You may not know just where to go, when my wife gets  
around  
But when she comes, remember this, if I'm not on the  
ground"

[Introduced by Bert Williams

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