

Ralph McTell

"The Girl From The Hiring Fair"

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I went down to the hiring fair for to sell my labour,
And I noticed a maid in the very next row and I hoped
she'd be my neighbour.
Imagine then my delight when the farmer picked us
both.
I spoke not a word in the cart to the farm, but my heart
beat in my throat.

My lodging was dry and my master fair and I gave him
full measure,
But my envy grew like the corn in the field for in his
house was my treasure,
And I'd watch her carry water, or drive cows from the
byre,
And the heat from the sun made the corn grow strong
and with it my desire.

Well I'd see her in my dreaming and in my dreams
caress
Her eyes, her lips and her dark brown hair, the curves
beneath her dress.
But harvest time it came at last, so heavy was the task
That the women and the men worked side by side and I
had her near at last,

And I swung harder with my scythe, few words between
us passed,
And I cursed my tongue-tied youthfulness and I hoped
that she'd hear my heart.
When all was safely gathered in and we sat down to
rest
My trembling fingers touched her arm, and she placed
them on her breast.
And then she turned to me as the sun went down and
all my senses reeled,
As we lay there on the scented ground and the moon
rose over the field.

She was safely gathered in my arms when from the
barn
Drifted the sound of a violin and we hurried back to the
farm,

And all were dancing in the lantern light and music
filled the air,
And I thanked my stars for the harvest moon and the
girl from the hiring fair.

Oh all were dancing in the lantern light and music filled
the air,
And I thanked my stars for the harvest moon and the
girl from the hiring fair.

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