

FA Fahey**"THE OULD PLAID SHAWL"**

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Not far from old Kinvara, in the merry month of May,

When birds were singing cheerily, there came across
my way,

As if from out the sky above an angel chanced to fall,

A little Irish cailín in an ould plaid shawl.

She tripped along right joyously, a basket on her arm;

And, O ! her face, and, O ! her grace, the soul of saint
would

charm;

Her brown hair rippled o'er her brow, but greatest
charm of all

Was her modest blue eyes beaming 'neath her ould
plaid shawl.

I courteously saluted her -" God save you, miss, says I;

"God save you. kindly, sir," said she, and shyly passed
me by;

Off went my heart along with her, a captive in her thrall,

Imprisoned in the corner of the ould plaid shawl.

Enchanted with her beauty rare, I gazed in pure
delight,

Till round an angle of the road she vanished from my
sight;

But ever since I sighing say, as I that scene recall,

"The grace of God about you and your ould plaid
shawl."

They may talk of highway robbers that, with pistols and
with knives,

Make trembling travellers yield them up their money or
their lives,

But think of me that handed out my heart and head
and all

To a simple little cailín in an ould plaid shawl !

O! graceful the mantillas that the signorinas wear,

And tasteful are the bonnets of Parisian ladies fair,

But never cloak, or hood, or robe, in palace, bow'r, or
hall

Clad half such witching beauty as that ould plaid shawl.

O! some men sigh for riches, and some men live for
fame,

And some on history's pages hope to win a glorious
name;

My aims are not ambitious, and my wishes are but
small -

You might wrap them all together in an ould plaid
shawl.

I'll seek her all through Galway, and I'll seek her all
through Clare,

I'll search for tale or tidings of my traveller everywhere,

For peace of mind I'll never find until my own I call

That little Irish cailín in an her plaid shawl

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