

## Minstrels Of Mayhem

### "Lannigan's Ball"

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In the town of Athy one Jeremy Lannigan  
Battered away 'til he hadn't a pound.  
His father he died and made him a man again  
Left him a farm and ten acres of ground.  
He gave a grand party to friends and relations  
Who didn't forget him when it comes to the will,  
And if you'll but listen I'll make your eyes glisten  
Of the rows and the ructions of Lannigan's Ball.

Chorus:

Six long months I spent in Dublin,  
Six long months doing nothing at all.  
Six long months I spent in Dublin,  
learning to dance for Lannigan's ball.

Myself to be sure got free invitation,  
For all the nice girls and boys I might ask,  
And just in a minute both friends and relations  
Were dancing 'round merry as bees 'round a cask.  
Judy O'Daly, that nice little milliner,  
She tipped me a wink for to give her a call,  
And I soon arrived with Peggy McGilligan  
Just in time for Lannigan's Ball.

Chorus

There were lashings of punch and wine for the ladies,  
Potatoes and cakes; there was bacon and tea,  
There were the Nolans, Dolans, O'Gradys  
Courting the girls and dancing away.  
Songs they went 'round as plenty as water,  
"The harp that once sounded in Tara's old hall,"  
"Sweet Nelly Gray" and "The Rat Catcher's Daughter,"  
All singing together at Lannigan's Ball.

Chorus

They were doing all kinds of nonsensical polkas  
All 'round the room in a whirligig.  
Julia and I, we banished their nonsense

And tipped them the twist of a reel and a jig.  
&'Och mavrone, how the girls got all mad at me  
Danced 'til you'd think the ceiling would fall.  
For I spent three weeks at Brooks' Academy  
Learning new steps for Lannigan's Ball.

She stepped out and I stepped in again,  
I stepped out and she stepped in again,  
She stepped out and I stepped in again,  
Learning new steps for Lannigan's Ball.

Boys were all merry and the girls they were hearty  
And danced all around in couples and groups,  
'Til an accident happened, young Terrance McCarthy  
Put his right leg through miss Finnerty's hoops.  
Poor creature fainted and cried, "Meelia murther,"  
Called for her brothers and gathered them all.  
Carmody swore that he'd go no further  
'Til he had satisfaction at Lannigan's Ball.

In the midst of the row miss Kerrigan fainted,  
Her cheeks at the same time as red as a rose.  
Some of the lads declared she was painted,  
She took a small drop too much, I suppose.  
Her sweetheart, Ned Morgan, so powerful and able,  
When he saw his fair colleen stretched out by the wall,  
Tore the left leg from under the table  
And smashed all the Chaneys at Lannigan's Ball.

Boys, oh boys, 'twas then there were runctions.  
Myself got a lick from big Phelim McHugh.  
I soon replied to his introduction  
And kicked up a terrible hullabaloo.  
Old Casey, the piper, was near being strangled.  
They squeezed up his pipes, bellows, chanters and all.  
The girls, in their ribbons, they got all entangled  
And that put an end to Lannigan's Ball.

--Traditional

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