

RED-HAIRED MARY

O, 'T WAS GOING TO THE FAIR IN DINGLE
ONE FINE MORNING LAST JULY
AND WALKING DOWN THE ROAD BEFORE ME
A RED-HAIRD GIRL I CHANCED TO SPY

*KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF RED-HAIRED MARY
HER AND I WILL SOON BE WED,
WE'LL SEE THE PRIEST THIS VERY MORNING
TONIGHT WE'LL LIE IN THE MARRIAGE BED!*

"COME RIDE WITH ME MY RED-HAIRD MAIDEN
THE DONKEY HE WILL CARRY TWO,"
SHE LOOKED AT ME WITH EYES A-TWINKLE
HER CHEEKS A LOVELY ROSY HUE
"THANK YOU KINDLY, SIR," SHE ANSWERED
THEN SHE TOSSED HER BRIGHT RED HAIR
"SEEING AS YOU HAVE THE DONKEY
I'LL RIDE WITH YOU TO THE DINGLE FAIR!"

WHEN WE REACHED THE TOWN OF DINGLE,
I TOOK HER HAND TO SAY GOODBYE,
BUT A TINKER HE STEPPED UP BEHIND ME
AND HIT ME RIGHT IN MY LEFT EYE.
NOW I WAS FEELING KIND OF PEEVISH
MY POOR OLD EYE FELT SAD AND SORE
I TAPPED HIM GENTLY WITH MY HOBNAILS,
AND HE FLEW BACK THROUGH MURPHY'S DOOR.

HE GALLOPED OFF TO FIND HIS FATHER
THE TALLEST MAN I E'ER DID MEET
HE TAPPED ME GENTLY WITH HIS KNUCKLES
NOW I AM MINUS TWO FRONT TEETH.
ROUND THE CORNER CAME A PEELER
TOLD ME THAT I'D BROKE THE LAW
THE DONKEY KICKED HIM IN THE KNEECAP
HE FELL DOWN AND BROKE HIS JAW.

NOW THE RED-HAIRED GIRL SHE KEPT ON SMILING
"YOUNG MAN I'LL COME WITH YOU," SHE SAID,
"WE'LL FORGET THE PRIEST THIS VERY MORNING,
AND TONIGHT WE'LL SLEEP IN MURPHY'S BED."