

## The Bastard King of England

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a C chord and ends with a G7 chord. The second staff begins with C, G, and C chords and ends with a G7 chord. The third staff begins with C, G, and C chords, followed by a double bar line, then an F chord labeled 'chorus', and ends with C, G7, and C chords. The fourth staff begins with a G7 chord and ends with a C chord.

1. Oh, the minstrels sing of an English King of many long years ago  
Who ruled his land with an iron hand though his mind was weak and low.  
He love to shag the royal stag that roamed the royal wood,  
But better yet to lie in bed and pull the royal pud.  
His only outer garment was a dirty undershirt  
That managed to hide the royal pride but couldn't hide the dirt.

### Chorus:

- He was dirty and lousy and full of fleas  
And his bloody big tool hung down to his knees  
God bless the Bastard king of England.
2. Oh, the Queen of Spain was an amorous Jane,  
A lascivious wench was she;  
Who loved to fool with the royal tool  
Of the King across the sea.  
So she sent a royal message by a royal messenger  
To ask the King to bring his ding and spend a night in her.  
(Chorus)
  3. When Philip of France heard it, by chance  
He declared, before his court:  
"The Queen prefers my rival, because my dong is short."  
So he sent for the Count of Zippity-Zap to slip the Queen a dose of the clap  
To pass along to the Bastard King of England.  
(Chorus)

4. When the King of England heard of this, he was walking through his halls  
And he up and swore by the royal whore he'd have the Frenchman's balls  
He offered half the royal purse and a piece of Queen Hortense  
To any British subject who'd de-ball the King of France.  
(Chorus)
5. Well the Earl of Sussex jumped on his horse and straight-way rode to France  
Where he swore he was a fairy, so the King let down his pants,  
He knotted a thong around that prong, and jumped on his horse, and rode along  
Dragging the Frenchman back to Merrie England.  
(Chorus)
6. When the King of England saw this sight, he shit all over the floor,  
For during the ride, his rival's hide had stretched a yard or more  
Then the merry maids of England, came down from London town  
And shouted 'round the battlements "To Hell with the British crown!"
7. So Philip of France usurped the throne, his scepter was the royal bone  
By which he'd bitched the bastard King of England!  
(Chorus)

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This is definitely not a historical ballad.

"The Bastard King of England" is a bawdy English folk song commonly misattributed to Rudyard Kipling, or less commonly Tennyson, Charles Dickens, Walt Whitman, and Charles Whistler. The earliest known appearance of the song was in 1927. The song has several characters: an unnamed Queen of Spain, a French king named Phillip and the "Count of Zippity-Zap" who gives the Queen a "dose of the clap".

The song has a number of historical inaccuracies, since the last French king named Phillip died in the 14th century and Spain would not become a united kingdom until the 15th. According to Ed Cray (Cal State, Fresno) author of **Bawdy Ballads**, "As the story goes, Rudyard Kipling wrote 'The Bastard King of England' (pronounced En-ga-land') and that authorship cost him his poet laureate's knighthood. It is too bad that the attribution is apparently spurious; 'The Bastard King' would undoubtedly be Kipling's most popular work." As with most of the songs in this section, I learned from Oscar Brand.