


A-Roving



In Am - ster - dam there lived a maid Mark
well what I do say! In Am - ster - dam there
lived a maid And she was mis - tress of her trade I'll
go no more a - ro - ving with you fair
maid! A - ro - ving, a - ro - ving Since
ro - ving's been my ru - i - in I'll go no more a
ro - ving With you fair maid!

1. In Amsterdam there lived a maid
Mark well what I do say!
In Amsterdam there lived a maid
And she was mistress of her trade
I'll go no more a-roving with you fair maid!

Chorus

A roving, a roving
Since roving's been my ru-i-in
I'll go no more a roving
With you fair maid!

2. I took this maiden for a walk,
Mark well what I do say!
I took this maiden for a walk,
She wanted some gin and didn't she talk.
I'll go no more a roving with you fair maid!

Chorus

3. She said, "You sailors I love you so,"
Mark well what I do say!
"All you sailors, I love you so,"
And the reason why I soon did know.
I'll go no more a roving with you fair maid!
Chorus

4. I touched this maid upon her arm,
Mark well what I do say,
I touched this maid upon her arm,
She said, "Kind sir, don't me no harm!"
I'll go no more a-roving with you, fair maid.
Chorus

5. I touched this maid upon her knee,
Mark well what I do say,
I touched this maid upon her knee,
She said, "Kind sir, you're awful free!"
I'll go no more a-roving with you, fair maid.
Chorus

6. I touched this maid upon her thigh,
Mark well what I do say,
I touched this maid upon her thigh,
She said, "You're awful high!"
I'll go no more a-roving with you, fair maid.
Chorus

7. I touched this maid upon her arse,
Mark well what I do say,
I touched this maid upon her arse,
She said, "Dear sir, you're awful fast!"
I'll go no more a-roving with you, fair maid.
Chorus

8. I touched upon her maidenhead,
Mark well what I do say,
I touched upon her maidenhead,
"That'll cost you three and six," she said.
I'll go no more a-roving with you, fair maid.
Chorus

9. I gave this miss a parting kiss,
Mark well what I do say!
I gave this miss a parting kiss,
When I got aboard my money I missed.
I'll go no more a roving with you fair maid!
Chorus

Alternate ending verses:

Then a great big Dutchman rammed my bow
Mark well what I do say!
For a great big Dutchman rammed my bow
And said "Young man, dees ees meine frau!"
I'll go no more a-roving with you fair maid!
Chorus

Then take fair warning boys from me
Mark well what I do say!
So, take fair warning boys from me
With other men's wives, don't make too free
I'll go no more a-roving with you fair maid!
Chorus

"A-Roving", also known as "The Maid of Amsterdam" is a traditional sea shanty used at pumps and windlasses. It has a **Roud Folk Song Index** number of 649.

Its origin is sometimes given as Thomas Heywood's play **The Rape of Lucrece**, published 1608 and first performed around 1630 although this is debated. The song may date to the Elizabethan or Jacobean era and shorter versions have been found in Great Britain, Denmark, and France.

A short, cleaned-up version was printed in **The Burl Ives Song Book**.

There have been a number of recordings by folk singers (like Burl Ives and Paul Clayton). Some classical groups (like the Robert Shaw Chorale) have also performed it, either using sanitized versions or ignoring the story line that the sailor has an encounter with a thieving prostitute and probably got syphilis from her ("Since rovin's been my ru-i-n ...").