

New York Girls

C F G7

As I walked down the Broad-way, a fair maid I did

C G F

meet She asked me please to see her home, she

G7 C *Chorus* F

lived on Ble - ecker Street. And a - way, you San - ty,

G7 F G7 C G7 F

my dear Aun - ty Oh, you New York girls,

G7 C

can't you dance the pol - ka?

1. As I walked down the Broadway, a fair maid I did meet
She asked me please to see her home, she lived on Bleeker Street.
Chorus:
And away, you Santy, my dear Aunty
Oh you New York girls, can't you dance the polka?
2. And when we got to Bleeker Street we stopped at 44
Her mother and her sisters there to meet me at the door.
3. So, when I got inside the house the drinks were passed around
The liquor was so awful strong me head went round and round.
4. And the we had another drink before we sat to eat
the liquor was so awful strong I quickly fell asleep.
5. When I woke up next morning, I had an aching head
Me gold watch and me pocketbook and me lady friends had fled.
6. When I woke up next morning, I had an aching head
And there was I Jack all alone stark naked in the bed.

7. As I looked all around the house, nothing could I see
But a lady's shift and apron which now belonged to me.
8. I wrapped them glad rags round me and for the docks did steer
I'll never court a Yankee maid; I'll stick to rum and beer.

Additional verses from John Roberts and Tony Barrant:

My shipmates seein' me come aboard, these words to me did say
"Well, well, old chap, you've lost your cap since last you went away."

"Is this the new spring fashion the ladies wear ashore?
Where is the shop that sells it? Have they got any more?"

The Old Man cried, "Why Jack, my boy, I'm sure I could have found
A better suit than that, by far, to buy for eighty pounds."

So come all you bully sailormen, take warning when ashore
Or else you'll meet some charming girl who's nothing but a whore

Your hard-earned cash will disappear, your rig and boots as well
For Yankee girls are tougher than the other side of Hell.

This popular capstan shanty has many names: "As I Walked Out On Broadway", "'Can't Ye Dance The Polka", "Away, Susanna" and "The New York Gals". Each version tells a different story -usually about Jack's amorous adventures ashore in New York, but there was also a version listing places all over the world where Jack had been.

Recorded by The Kingston Trio, John Roberts and Tony Barrant and others.
Steeleye Span recorded "New York Girls" with guest Peter Sellers who played ukulele.