

## The Cuckoo's Nest



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| <p>1. As I was a walking one morning in May<br/>I met a pretty fair maid and unto her did say<br/>I'll tell you me mind, it's for love I am inclined<br/>An me inclination lies in your cuckoo's nest</p> <p>2. Some like a girl who is pretty in the face<br/>and some like a girl who is slender in the waist<br/>But give me a girl who will wriggle and will twist<br/>At the bottom of the belly lies the cuckoo's nest</p> <p>3. Me darling, says she, I am innocent and young<br/>And I scarcely can believe your false deluding tongue<br/>Yet I see it in your eyes and it fills me with surprise<br/>That your inclination lies in me cuckoo's nest</p> <p>4. Me darling, says me, if you can see it in me eyes<br/>Then think of it as fondness and do not be surprised<br/>For I live you me dear and I'll marry you I swear<br/>If you'll let me clap my hand on your cuckoo's nest</p> | <p>5. Me darling, says she, I can do no such thing<br/>For me mother often told me it was committing sin<br/>Me maidenhead to lose and me sex to be abused<br/>So have no more to do with me cuckoo's nest</p> <p>6. Me darling, says me, it's not committing sin<br/>But common sense should tell you it is a pleasing thing<br/>For you were brought into this world to increase and do<br/>your best<br/>And to help a man to heaven in your cuckoo's nest</p> <p>7. Me darling, says she, I cannot you deny<br/>For you've surely won my heart by the rolling of your eye<br/>Yet I see it in your eyes that your courage is surprised<br/>So gently lift your hand into me cuckoo's nest</p> <p>8. This couple they got married and soon they went to bed<br/>And now this pretty fair maid has lost her maidenhead<br/>In a small country cottage they increase and do their best<br/>And he often claps his hand on her cuckoo's nest</p> |
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"The Cuckoo's Nest", also known as "The Cuckold's Nest" is a bawdy Scottish song from the repertoire of Jeannie Robertson of Aberdeen. Her recordings of this song can be found on her EP **I Ken Where I'm Going** (1959), on the anthology **Songs of Seduction (The Folk Songs of Britain Volume 2)** (1961/1968), **The Cuckoo's Nest and Other Scottish Folk Songs** and **Songs of the Travelling People** (1953).

Norman Buchan commented in the EP's sleeve notes:

A flourishing weed in fairly recent Scottish cultural developments was that phenomenon known as "The Kailyard (cabbage-patch) School", which took its name from the "kailyard" reference in a song called The Bonny Brier Bush. The writers in this school sedulously fostered the curious conception of the average Scotsman as a pawky peasant, stupid, sentimental and altogether sickeningly coy. Here in The Cuckoo's Nest is a song calculated to smash any surviving remnants of kailyardery. This is a piece of healthy bawdry, set in a real and not a phoney kailyard. The cuckoo's nest itself is, of course, a conventional sex symbol, of a kind perhaps, more often found in English folksong.

The title, the "cuckoo's nest" commonly referred to female pubic hair and accompanying anatomy. It dates to at least the early 18th century.

Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick played the tune on their album **Rags, Reels and Airs** (1967) and **The Acoustic Folk Box** (2002).