

The Irish Ballad

Tom Lehrer



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[Am] About a maid, I'll sing a song,
sing [Dm] rickety tickety- [Am]tin
[Dm] About a maid, I'll [Am] sing a song,
[G] who didn't have her [Am] family long
[Am] Not only [G] did she [Am] do them [Dm] wrong
She [Am] did every [G] one of them [Am] in, them [G] in,
she [Am] did every [G] one of them [Am] in

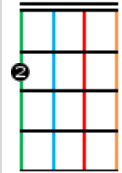
[Am] One morning in a fit of pique,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] One morning in a [Am] fit of pique
[G] she drowned her father in [Am] the creek
[Am] The water [G] tasted [Am] bad for a [Dm] week
And [Am] we had to make do with [Am] gin, with [G] gin,
we [Am] had to make [G] do with [Am] gin

[Am] Her mother she could never stand,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] Her mother she could [Am] never stand and
[G] so a cyanide [Am] soup she planned
[Am] The mother died with a [Am] spoon in her [Dm] hand
And [Am] her face in a [G] hideous [Am] grin, a [G] grin,
her [Am] face in a [G] hideous [Am] grin

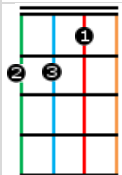
[Am] She set her sister's hair on fire,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] She set her sister's [Am] hair on fire, and as the
[G] smoke and [Am] flame grew higher
[Am] She danced [G] around the [Am] funeral [Dm] pyre
[Am] Playing a [G] vio-[Am]lin, o-[G]lin,
[Am] playing a [G] vi-o-[Am]lin.

[Am] She tied her brother down with stones,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] She tied her brother [Am] down with
[G] stones, and sent him off to [Am] Davy Jones
[Am] All they [G] ever [Am] found were the [Dm] bones
And [Am] occasional [G] pieces of [Am] skin, of [G] skin,
[Am] occasional [G] pieces of [Am] skin

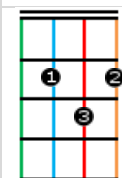
Am



Dm



G





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[Am] One day when she had nothing to do,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] One day when she had [Am] nothing to do
she [G] cut her baby [Am] brother in two
[Am] Served him [G] up in an [Am] Irish [Dm] stew
And [Am] invited the [G] neighbors [Am] in, 'bors [G] in,
[Am] invited the [G] neighbors [Am] in.

[Am] When at last the police came by,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] When at last the [Am] police came by,
these [G] terrible deeds she [Am] did not deny
[Am] To do so [G] she would [Am] have to [Dm] lie
And [Am] lying she [G] knew was a [Am] sin, a [G] sin,
and [Am] lying she knew was a [Am] sin

[Am] Just one last thing before I go,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] Jus' one last thing before I go,
there's somethin' I think you [Am] ought to know
[Am] They had no [G] proof so [Am] they let her [Dm] go
An' [Am] they say [G] she was tall and [Am] thin, and [G] thin,
[Am] they say she [G] was tall and [Am] thin.

[Am] My tragic tale I won't prolong,
sing [Dm] rickety-tickety-[Am]tin
[Dm] My tragic tale I [Am] won't prolong,
[G] and if you didn't enjoy this [Am] song
[Am] You've your-[G]selves to [Am] blame if it's too [Dm] long
You [Am] should've [G] never let me [Am] begin, [G] begin
You [Am] should've [G] never let me [Am] begin!

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