

The Prentice Boy



As down through Cu-pid's gar - den for pleas - ure I — did walk, I — heard two loy - al
lov - ers most sweet - ly for to talk. It — being an hon - ored la - dy and her ap - pren - tice
boy, And in sec - ret they were talk - ing, for he was all her joy.

He says, "Dear honored lady, I am your 'prentice boy.
How can I e'er expect a fair lady to enjoy?"
With cheeks as red as roses, her manner kind and free,
She says, "Dear lad, if e'er I wed, I will surely marry thee."

But when her father came to know, the same to understand,
He had this young man banished unto a foreign land.
And, as she lay broken-hearted, these words was heard to say,
"For my honest charming 'prentice a maid I'll live and die."

This young man to a merchant a waiting-man was bound
And by his good behavior great fortune there he found.
Soon he became a butler, which prompted him to fame
And by his careful conduct his steward he became.

For a ticket in a lottery the money he paid down
And there he gained a fortune of full five thousand pounds.
With store of gold and silver he packed his clothes indeed
And to England he returned to his own true love with speed.

He offered kind embraces, but she flew from his arms,
Saying, "No lord or nobleman shall e'er enjoy my charms;
The love of gold is cursed, great riches I decry,
For my honest charming 'prentice a maid I'll live and die."

He says, "Dear honored lady, you have been in these arms,
This is the ring I gave you in token of your charms;
You vowed if e'er you married your charms I should enjoy,
Your father did me banish, I am your 'prentice boy."

When she beheld his features, she flew into his arms;
With kisses and embraces she did enjoy his charms,
And then through Cupid's garden a road to church they found,
And there in virtuous pleasure in Hymen's chains were bound.