

Billy Boy

1. Where ha' ye bin all the day,
Billy Boy, Billy Boy
Where ha' ye bin all the day,
Me Billy boy?

I've been walkin' all the day
with me charmin' Nancy Grey ☐
And me Nancy kittl'd me fancy,
Oh, me charmin' Billy Boy!

2. Can she cook a dainty stew
Billy Boy, Billy Boy
Can she cook a dainty stew
Me Billy boy?

Aye she can cook a dainty stew -
And grand leek puddin's too
And me Nancy kittl'd me fancy,
Oh, me charmin' Billy Boy!

3. Is she fit to be your wife
Billy Boy, Billy Boy?
Is she fit to be your wife
Me Billy boy?

Oh she's fit to be me wife -
As the fork is to the knife
And me Nancy kittl'd me fancy,
Oh, me charmin' Billy Boy!

4. Did you take her for a ride
Billy Boy, Billy Boy
Did you take her for a ride
Me Billy boy?

Aye, I took her for a ride -
and a little bit mair beside
And me Nancy kittl'd me fancy,
Oh, me charmin' Billy Boy!

You can hear the **The High Level Ranters** sing
this version at youtu.be/l6CbFK0wNeM



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Billy Boy

1. Where ha' ye bin all the day,
my boy, Billy Boy?☐
**Where ha' ye bin all the day, me
charmin' Billy Boy?**
☐ I've been walkin' on the quay,
with me charmin' Nancy Grey
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**
2. And did you take her for a ride,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**And did you take her for a ride, me
charmin' Billy Boy?**
Yes, I took her for a ride,
and a little more beside,
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh, me charmin'
Billy Boy!**
3. Can she cook a bit o' steak,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**Can she cook a bit o' steak, me charmin'
Billy Boy?**
She can cook a bit o' steak,
aye, an' make a gairdle cake,
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh, me charmin'
Billy Boy!**
4. Can she make an Irish stew,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**Can she make an Irish stew. me
charmin' Billy Boy?**
She can make an Irish stew,
aye, an' "Singin' Hinnies" too
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**
5. Can she lie close unto thee,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**Can she lie close unto thee, me charmin'
Billy Boy?**
She can lie close unto me,
like the bark is to the tree,
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**
6. Can she make a feather bed,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**Can she make a feather bed, me
charmin' Billy Boy?**☐

- She can make a feather bed,
fit for any sailor's head
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**
7. And is she fit to be your wife,
my boy, Billy Boy?
**Is she fit to be your wife, me charmin'
Billy Boy?**☐
Aye, she's as fit to be me wife
as the fork is to the knife
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**
 8. **Where ha' ye bin all the day,
my boy, Billy Boy?**
**Where ha' ye bin all the day, me
charmin' Billy Boy?**
I've been walkin' on the quay,
with me charmin' Nancy Grey
**Nancy kittl'd me fancy, oh,
me charmin' Billy Boy!**

This version is recorded by **Salt of the Earth**, on
CD [Tomorrow's Tide](#)

Notes:

A **Capstan** shanty, taken from a Northumbrian folk song. The shanty would have had verses added or removed according to the length of the job.

This shanty, like many others, contains a fair amount of innuendo in the recorded versions..

About the words

Kittled - tickled

Gairdle cake - girdle or griddle cake

Singing Hinnies - a kind of Sally Lunn teacake only larger. Usually plentifully besprinkled with currants, in which case it is designated by pitmen as "Singin' Hinnies wi' smaea co fizzors" (small coal fizzers.)

Terry, Richard Runciman, 1921, *The Shanty Book, Sailor Shanties*) gives *four verses; the rest, he says, being too Rabelasian to print.*