

Yarmouth Town

1. In Yarmouth Town there lived a man,
He kept a tavern by the strand.
This landlord had a daughter fair,
A plump little thing with the golden hair.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

2. Now to this tavern come a sailor-man
He asked the maiden for her hand.
"Why should I marry you?" she said,
"I get all I want without being wed."

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

3. "But, if you want with me to linger,
I'll tie a bit of string all around my finger.
As you come by, and you pull on the string,
And I'll come down and I'll let you in."

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

4. At closing time this sailor-man,
He went to the tavern by the strand.
He goes by, he pulls on the string,
And she comes down and she lets Jack in.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

5. Well, he's never seen such a sight before,
'Cause the string around her finger was all she wore
And when he gave another pull on the string
She pulled back the blanket and let Jack in.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

6. So, there he stayed the whole night through
And the very next day he went back to his crew,
Where he told them all about that maiden fair,
The plump little thing with the golden hair.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

7. And the story, it soon got around
And the very next night in Yarmouth Town
There was seventeen sailors pulling on the string
And she come down and she let them all in.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

8. So all young men that to Yarmouth do go,
See a plump little thing with her hair hanging low,
Well, you go by, pull on the string,
She'll come down and she'll let you all in.

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

**Won't you come down?
Won't you come down?
Won't you come down to Yarmouth Town?**

Notes:

Peter Bellamy said he collected Yarmouth Town from Pete Bullen of Norwich, who said he got it from his grandfather. It has not been reported from anywhere else. There is a discussion on Mudcat.org on whether the song was in fact written in the 1960's, but Jon Boden suggests in [A Folk Song a Day](#) that the explicit nature may have put collectors off reporting it.

This version: Brian Cope, recorded at a private Song & Ale weekend.



Hogarth, William: "*The Idle 'Prentice return'd from sea & in a Garret with a common Prostitute*", 1747. via [Wikimedia Commons](#).