

Girl From The Hiring Fair
Ralph McTell

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Em **C** **G** **D**
I went down to the hiring fair, for to sell my labour,
Em **C** **Bm**
and I noticed a maid in the very next row and I hoped that sheâ€™d be my
C
neighbour.
G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
Imagine then o my delight when the farmer picked us both.
G **C** **Em** **D** **Em** **C**
I spoke not a word in the cart to the farm but my heart beat in my throat.

Em **C** **G** **D**
My lodging was dry and my master fair and I gave him full measure,
Em **C** **Bm** **C**
But my envy grew like the corn in the field for in his house was my treasure.
G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
And Iâ€™d watch her carry water or drive cows from the byre,
G **C** **Em** **D** **Em**
And the heat from the sun made the corn grow strong and with it my desire
C **Em** **C**

Em **C** **G** **D**
Iâ€™d see her in my dreaming and in my dreams caress.
Em **C** **Bm** **C**
Her eyes her lips and her dark brown hair the curves beneath her dress.
G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
When harvest time it came at last so heavy was the task
G **C** **Em** **D** **Em**
That the women and the men worked side by side and I had her near at last.
C **Em** **C** **Em** **C**

Em **C** **G** **D**
So I swung harder with my scythe few words between us passed,
Em **C** **Bm**
And I cursed my tongue tied youthfulness and I hoped that sheâ€™d hear my
C
heart.
G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
When all was safely gathered in and we sat down to rest
G **C** **Em** **D** **Em** **C**

My trembling fingers touched her arm and she placed them on her breast.

Em **C** **G** **D**
And she turned to me as the sun went down and all my senses reeled,
Em **C** **Bm** **C**
As we lay there on the scented ground and the moon rose over the field.

G / D / Em / C D / G / C Em / C / Em / C / Em / C

Em **C** **G** **D**
She was safely gathered in my arms when from the barn
Em **C** **Bm** **C**
Drifted the sound of the violin and we hurried back to the farm.
G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
And all were dancing in the lantern light and music filled the air
G **C** **Em** **D**
And I thanked my stars for the harvest moon and the girl from the hiring
Em **C** **Em** **C**
fair.

G **D** **Em** **C** **D**
And all were dancing in the lantern light and music filled the air,
G **C** **Em** **D**
And I thanked my stars for the harvest moon, and the girl from the hiring
Em **C** **Em** **C** **Em** **C**
fair.