

## **The Pretty Maid Milking Her Cow**

(A Pretty Girl Milking Her Cow / **Cailin Deas Crúite na mBó** in the Irish language is a traditional 18th-century Irish ballad. The English version is attributed to Thomas Moore (1779–1852). Originally sung in Irish Gaelic, the song was popular through the early 20th century. It enjoyed a revival when an updated swing version sung by Irish-American singer/actress Judy Garland was featured in the 1940 film ‘Little Nellie Kelly’)

It was on a fine summer morning  
The birds sweetly tuned on each bough  
And as I walked out for my pleasure  
I saw a maid milking her cow  
Her voice so enchanting melodious  
Left me quite unable to go  
My heart it was loaded with sorrow  
For Colleen dhas cruthea na moe

Then to her I made advances  
“Good morrow most beautiful maid”  
Your beauty my heart so entrances  
“Pray Sir, do not banter,” she said  
“I’m not such a rare precious jewel,  
That I should enamour you so,  
I am but a poor little milk-girl”  
Says Colleen dhas crutheu na moe

“The Indies afford no such jewel  
So bright and transparently clear  
Ah! do not add flame to my fuel  
Consent but to love me my dear”  
Oh had I the lamp of Aladdin  
Or the wealth of the African shore  
I’d rather be poor in a cottage  
With Colleen dhas crutheu na moe