

## Indeed Pretty Polly (traditional North Carolina)

*One of the songs that Anne & Frank Warner collected from Tink Tillett on the outer banks of North Carolina. I like its portrayal of a young woman who is strong, but not bitter towards her misguided young William.*

O indeed, pretty Polly, I once loved you dearly  
And in your sweet company I took great delight.  
But when a man is once wed, his joy is all fled  
He is freed from all liberty,  
Bound down to hard slavery.  
So we are both free, love, and I bid you good night.

But indeed, pretty Polly, there is one thing I would tell you,  
That is to ask me to your wedding, love, and I will do the same.  
For you need never mind a husband you will find  
If there's any such a thing,  
If there's any such a thing,  
If there's any such a thing in this world to be had.

So she wrote him a letter to come to her wedding,  
To come to her wedding on the ninth day of June.  
The letter he reads and his poor heart did bleed,  
Crying, "I have lost her,"  
Crying, "I have lost her,"  
Crying, "I have lost her, I have lost her indeed!"

With his bridle and saddle he rode to her station,  
He rode to the place where pretty Polly did dwell.  
And when he got there through his troubles and snares,  
The bride and the bridegroom,  
The bride and the bridegroom,  
The bride and the bridegroom, they were out on the floor.

"O indeed, pretty Polly, if I only would've known it,  
If I only would've known, you'd be wedded so soon,  
We would have married, no longer have tarried,  
So step up beside me, love,  
O step up beside me, love,  
O step up beside me, love, and leave him alone."

"O indeed, pretty William, I once loved you dearly,  
And in your sweet company I took great delight.  
But remember you said, "When a man is once wed,  
He is freed from all liberty,  
Bound down to hard slavery."  
So we are both free, love, and I bid you goodnight!"

**From Judy Cook's CD "If You Sing Songs..."**

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