

Knittershanty



crochet = 100 KEY G maj

as I wove out one fair isle morn my trade perchance two ply yarn __ I met a lass named

Wendy wool her needle caught my eye__ & its click knit one girls purl one

drop one sod -it pick-it-up whoops cast off me girls let's sing the Knit ters shan ty I

*And it's ... Click, knit one girls
Purl one, Drop one, (sodit pickitup)
Whoops! cast off me girls, Let's sing the Knitters shanty*

As I wove out one Fairisle morn My trade perchance two ply, (yarn)
I met a lass named Wendy wool Her needle caught my eye.

chorus

I am a Singer, sew said she, A spinner of bad yarns (yarn)
I wish you would pull-over here My booty for to darn

chorus

So I got out me crochet hook Her mohair for to Cable (yarn)
The tension it was mounting! Angora - Blimey was she able.

chorus

You've pulled the wool over my eyes, Unravalled me you rot-ter. (yarn)
Your line I swallowed hook & eye Now you must tie the knot sir.

chorus

But I'musleave for Cardigan. For my crew neck's tide dumper (yarn)
In Jersey we might meet a-skein But at least I got ta jumper..

chorus (sodit pickitup)

Words & Musical arrangement © 11 Nov. 1989 Cresby Brown, Peter Goillau & Lucie Sloan
Tune is a loose arrangement of New York Gals / Can't ye Dance the Polka with added (asides)
Sung by Cresby & Jackie as a duet, first & second singer can alternate verses & curses !

This song was mooted half-heartedly on several occasions but a chance meeting over coffee and a couple of hours later it sounded like a well ewesed off the shoulder number (raglan of course).

The contorted spelling is a result of the phonetic nature of the jokes, (er make that puns) and is chosen to look funny so that the reader looks for other meanings (there may be several), this should be borne in mind when singing, to telegraph the joke. A small pause after Cardigan is recommended, sufficient to allow the ambiguity to be appreciated (appreciation is a slight exaggeration).

Cresby has had comments from people sure they heard the song pre-dating 1989 ! The song does have that timeless feel, and it is, given that it is a parody, very true to shanty form. If there was a similar song before, it was well hidden, knowledge of it's presence would have vetoed Knittershanty's birth. However folklorist Roy Plalmer chose the song to introduce an erudite dissertation on the shanty form at the Lancaster Maritime festival 2001. Ta Roy.

For non-British audiences there may be a few explanations and substitutions needed. Wendy wool is a brand name, maybe Robyn wool or similar. Raglan and also Cardigan - Welsh towns (& the big Bay on the left) but are they well known enough? & I usually telegraph the pun by stroking my arm as I sing the word "sleeve". "Crew neck's tide" is a quadruple entendre 1) crew necks, 2) neck tide (tide mark as in a mother's exclamation to "wash yer neck") 3) next tide and 4) next I'd (phew). Jersey is a

56 Channel Island but New Jersey would substitute perfectly there. Try Delaware and substitute New Jersey for Cardigan, ho ho ho.