

And I were a maiden

Edited by Jason Smart

Anon (c.1513)

I And I war a may - - dyn, As

II And I war a may - - - dyn,

III And I war a may - - - dyn, As

IV And I war a may - dyn, As

V And I war a may - - - dyn, As

3

I ma - ny one ys, For all the golde in

II As ma - ny one ys, For all the golde in

III ma - ny one ys, For all the gold in

IV ma - ny one ys, For all the gold in

V ma - ny one ys, For all the gold in

Eng - lond I wold not do a - mysse.

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Eng - lond I wold not do a - mysse.

Eng - - lond I wold not do a - mysse.

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| <p>2. When I was a wanton wench
Of twelve yere of age,
Those cowrtyers with ther amorus
They kyndyld my corage.</p> | <p>3. When I was come to
The age of fifteen yere
In all this lond, nowther fre nor bond,
Me thought I had no pere.</p> |
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The Text in Modern Spelling

1. And I were a maiden,
As many one is,
For all the gold in England
I would not do amiss.
2. When I was a wanton wench
Of twelve year of age,
These courtiers with their amours
They kindled my corage.
3. When I was come to
The age of fifteen year
In all this land, neither free nor bond,
Methought I had no peer.

Editorial Conventions

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves.
The original spelling has been retained, but capitalisation and punctuation have been applied and contractions expanded.
Ambiguities in the allocation of the underlay to the notes have been tacitly resolved.

Source

London, British Library Add. MS 31922 (the 'Henry VIII Manuscript', c.1510–13), f.106v.

Notes

The signs in bar 4 probably indicate a repeat from that point.
The text is evidently incomplete as it stands, but no other source of it is known.
John Stevens has noted three references to a popular song 'And I were a maid'. Possibly voice IV of the present setting is the tune of this song.