

## A Smuggler's Song (1906)

Rudyard Kipling

If you wake at midnight, and hear a horse's feet,  
Don't go drawing back the blind, or looking in the street,  
Them that ask no questions isn't told a lie.  
Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by.

Five and twenty ponies,  
Trotting through the dark –  
Brandy for the Parson, 'Baccy for the Clerk.  
Laces for a lady; letters for a spy,  
Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by!

Running round the woodlump if you chance to find  
Little barrels, roped and tarred, all full of brandy-wine,  
Don't you shout to come and look, nor use 'em for your play.  
Put the brishwood back again – and they'll be gone next day !

If you see the stable-door setting open wide;  
If you see a tired horse lying down inside;  
If your mother mends a coat cut about and tore;  
If the lining's wet and warm – don't you ask no more !

If you meet King George's men, dressed in blue and red,  
You be careful what you say, and mindful what is said.  
If they call you " pretty maid," and chuck you 'neath the chin,  
Don't you tell where no one is, nor yet where no one's been !

Knocks and footsteps round the house – whistles after dark –  
You've no call for running out till the house-dogs bark.  
Trusty's here, and Pincher's here, and see how dumb they lie  
They don't fret to follow when the Gentlemen go by !

'If You do as you've been told, 'likely there's a chance,  
You'll be give a dainty doll, all the way from France,  
With a cap of Valenciennes, and a velvet hood –  
A present from the Gentlemen, along 'o being good !

Five and twenty ponies,  
Trotting through the dark –  
Brandy for the Parson, 'Baccy for the Clerk.  
Them that asks no questions isn't told a lie –  
Watch the wall my darling while the Gentlemen go by !