

## **I But a Little Girl**

I know it is a wicked thing  
In such a fashion for to sing  
With no regard for god or king  
And I but a little girl

But evil shapes do bid my tongue  
Great judges and divines among  
To say things strange to one so young  
And I but a little girl

My friends and I thought little harm  
To go to Reverend Paris' farm  
Our secret fortunes for to charm  
Such sport for a little girl

But Betty's eyes did roll about  
And Abigail began to shout  
And so the devil found us out  
And shapes began to swirl

Unholy shapes of girls and men  
And women to our torment then  
Pronounced us damned and damned again  
We being but little girls

What recourse had we but to cry  
And name each shape as we passed by  
To hold us in its evil eye  
We being but little girls

And so we cried and cried aloud  
The names of mighty men and proud  
And haughty women in a crowd  
We being but little girls

And mothers, fathers, children dear  
Did crowd around those names to hear  
And so the crowd began to fear  
The namings of little girls

And learned men from near and far  
Did drage their prisoners to the bar  
Examined for the witch's scar  
And the curse of little girls

And witch and wizard once confessed  
Cried out their comrades all unblessed  
And all the world brought to the test  
At the word of little girls

And you, thought safe within your bed  
Who send your shape around my head  
Tomorrow you will lie in dread  
Of the hearts of little girls

And the justice of the holy court  
Will show his terror of our sport  
And the powers of this world resort  
To the whims of little girls

For the evil that attacks my heart  
In pride of power got its start  
You lie who say you have no part  
In the sins of little girls

The prisons full, the gallows' moan  
The old man crushed beneath the stone  
Are not a work of mine alone  
For I'm but a little girl

by Bob Franke  
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