

McBreen's Heifer

D
McBreen had two daughters, and each one in turn
A7 G
Was offered in marriage to Jamesy OByrne.
D
Now Kitty was pretty but Jane she was plain,
A7 D
So to make up the difference, McBreen would explain.
D
He'd give the best heifer he had on the land,
A7 G
As a sort of a bonus with Jane, understand.
D
But then Kitty would charm a bird off a bush,
A7 D
And that left the lad in a horrid non-plus.

Chorus

D
Now there's no denyin' Kitty was remarkably pretty,
A
Tho' I can't say the same for Jane,
D G
But still there's not the differ of the price of a heifer,
D A
Between the pretty and the plain.

Entirely bothered was Jamsey O'Burn,
He thought that he'd give the schoolmaster a turn.
Sez he "to wed Kitty is very good fun,
Still a heifer's a heifer when all's said an' done.
A girl she might lose her good looks anyhow,
And a heifer might grow to an elegant cow.
But still there's no price for the stock, d'ye mind,
And Jane has a face that the Divil designed."

Chorus

The schoolmaster said, with a good deal of sense,
"We'll reduce the two girls to shillin's an' pence;
Add the price of the heifer, then Jane, I'll be bound,
Will come out on top by a couple o' pound.
But still I'm forgettin' that down in Glengall,
The stock is just goin' for nothin' at all."
So Jim thought he'd wait till the end of the year,
Till girls might be cheaper or stock might be dear.

But when he came for Kitty,
She was married to McGinty,
And McGee had appropriated Jane.
So whether there's the differ
Of the price of a heifer
Is a thing that he never could explain.

Chorus

The lyrics to McBreen's Heifer were written by Percy French who performed it at his concerts throughout Ireland and the UK.

The song explores the dilemma faced by a young farmer who must decide to whether to marry a pretty girl who has no dowry or a plain girl who comes with a heifer (young cow) as a dowry. The lyrics are both clever and funny and show French's mastery of the comic song.

The chords are presented here in the key of D major. The chord converter will enable you to change to other keys.

For more information about McBreen's Heifer and videos of various performers, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/mcbreens-heifer>



Chord Converter

Our chord converter enables you to play this song in any key.

There's lots of information about changing chords, dominant sevenths advanced use of capo, and more to make playing your favourite songs easier. Find it here:
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