

# I AM A GIRL OF CONSTANT SORROW/MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW

Traditional Old-Time Song and "Blues;" **DATE:** 1913 Burnett; 1917 Sharp; 1936 Gunning; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Sarah Ogan Gunning; Barbara Dane; Bonnie Dobson; **OTHER NAMES:** "Farewell Song;" "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow;" "Maid of Constant Sorrow;" **NOTES:** Sarah Ogan Gunning reworked Emry Arthur's version of "Man of Constant Sorrow" in 1936 with the title, "Girl of Constant Sorrow." Since that time the "Girl" song has entered the folk tradition, with different lyric versions sung by women.

(In con-stant sor - row \_\_\_\_\_ through all her days) I \_\_\_\_\_ am a  
 girl \_\_\_\_\_ of con-stant sor - row \_\_\_\_\_ I've seen trou - ble \_\_\_\_\_ all my  
 days \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ bid fare - well \_\_\_\_\_ to old Ken -  
 tuck - y \_\_\_\_\_ the place where I \_\_\_\_\_ was borned and raised.

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**D** **G** **A** **D**  
 I am a girl of constant sorrow, I've seen trouble all my days.

**G** **A** **D**  
 I bid farewell to old Kentucky, The place where I was born and raised.

My mother, how I hated to leave her, Mother dear who now is dead.  
 But I had to go and leave her, So my children could have bread.

Perhaps, dear friends, you are wonderin', What the miners eat and wear.  
 This question I will try to answer, For I'm sure that it is fair.

For breakfast we had bulldog gravy, For supper we had beans and bread.  
 The miners don't have any dinner, And a tick of straw they call a bed.

Well, we call this hell on earth, friends, I must tell you all goodbye.  
 Oh, I know you all are hungry, Oh, my darlin' friends, don't cry.