

Cradle Song

A Louis Esson poem set to music by Chris Kempster. Esson (1878–1943) was a Melbourne socialist playwright and poet. His early work was published in the *Bulletin* and then later in more left journals such as the *Socialist*.

1. Ba-by, O ba-by, fain you are for bed; Mag-pie to mo-poke bus-y as the bee;
 2. Ba-by, my ba-by, rest your drows-y head, The one man that works here, tir-ed you must be;

4 The lit-tle red calf's in the snug cow-shed, And the lit-tle brown bird's in the tree.

9 Dad-dy's gone a-shear-ing down the Cast-le-reagh, So we're all a-lone now, on-ly you and me.

13 All a-mong the wool-O; keep your wide blades full-O! Dad-dy loves his ba-by, part-ed tho' they be.