

## Bare Legged Kate

Written by John Dengate about his mother who was brought up in Gundagai. It is based on the County Sligo song 'Bare Legged Joe'

**C** **F** **C**  
 Bare - leg - ged Kate with your nat - - ur - al grace,  
**F** **Em** **Dm** **G**  
 Big, sad eyes in the Ir - - ish face.  
**C** **F** **C**  
 A poor bush girl when the sum - mer is high in the  
**Dm** **G** **F** **C**  
 ston - y hills of Gun da - - gai.

Bare-legged Kate, why do you weep  
 When the men ride by with the travelling sheep?  
 Does the sight of the drover make you sad?  
 Do you think of the father you never had?

Bare-legged Kate, why do you run?  
 Down by the creek in the setting sun  
 Down where the eyes of the world cannot see  
 Run Kate, run, from poverty.

Bare-legged Kate, there is gold in the hills  
 But you know that the cyanide process kills.  
 Poisons the miners and cuts them down  
 In the mean little homes below the town.

Bare-legged Kate, when the floods come down.  
 It's the poor on the creeks are the ones who drown  
 When the great Murrumbidgee is thundering by  
 Through the haunted hills of Gundagai.