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# My Jennie

## [December 1886]

### by Eugene V. Debs

Carbon copy of a typed poem on Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen letterhead,  
with handwritten notation in a female hand reading "by Eugene V. Debs."  
Original in special Collections Department, Indiana State University,  
through gift of Marguerite Debs Cooper.

A nice little temper  
That is not always mild  
And gives her the appearance  
Of a spoilt saucy child  
Has my Jennie.<sup>1</sup>

A hand that can scrub  
That can finger the keys,  
Or make up the pie crust  
And do all with ease  
Has my Jennie.

A neat little foot  
That can wear out the shoes  
Or can skip in the waltz  
If its owner but choose  
Has my Jennie.

A flashing brown eye  
That shines like a star  
And that sparkles with anger  
When she is at war  
Has my Jennie.

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<sup>1</sup> **Eugenie "Jennie" Debs Selby**, sister of Eugene Debs, was employed as a typist by the Grand Lodge of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. This poem was written for her.

A pert little mouth  
That is saucy and neat  
As if made just for saying  
Things bitter and sweet  
Has my Jennie.

A character as pure  
As the white driven snow  
And a will that is able  
To keep it just so  
Has my Jennie.

A heart full of sympathy  
For those in distress  
Or that throbs in its rapture  
At a loved one's caress  
Has my Jennie.

I pray that my love for her  
May never grow less  
That the Lord in his goodness  
Will my home always bless  
With my Jennie.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport*

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