

CHARLOTTE SIMMONDS

*I Am a Man of Many Professions,  
My Wife Is a Lady of Many Confessions*

I am a carpenter,  
I carpent this wood.  
I bore nails and nests in the chests of my trees.

My wife is a woman,  
she womans this hood.  
She bore children and nests in the chests of her soul.

I am a husbandman,  
I husband my resources.  
I keep children and money and the nests of bees.

My wife has a husband,  
she husbands him well.  
Our nest is well-stocked with bread, butter and coal.

I am a hunter,  
in the Bavarian woods.  
I pluck stags and hares from their nests in the grasses.

My wife is a gutter,  
she guts a good duck,  
and into the nest of her ears I pour all of my muck.

I am a fisher,  
on the Sicilian shores,  
I net cold cod and gannets, a roe nest if it passes.

My wife is a shagger,  
she has a pet shag.  
If it dives for the whiting, then in bed I'm in luck.