

Backwater Blues

Medium tempo

Words & Music by Bessie Smith

N.C.

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$$mf$$

When it rained five days and the
 skies turned dark as night, When it
 rained five days and the skies turned dark as night,
 There was trou - ble tak - ing place in the
 low - - lands at night.

Verse 2

I woke up this morning, wouldn't even get out of my door. (*Twice*)
Enough trouble to make a poor girl wonder where she gonna go.

Verse 3

They rowed a little boat, about five miles 'cross the farm. (Twice)
I packed up all my clothing, throwed it in and they rowed me along.

Verse 4

It thundered and it lightened and the winds began to blow. (*Twice*)
There was a thousand women didn't have no place to go.

Verse 5

I went out to the lonesome, high old lonesome hill. (*Twice*)
I looked down on the old house where I used to live.

Verse 6

Backwater blues have caused me to pack up my things and go. (*Twice*)
'Cos my house fell down and I can't live there no more.

Verse 7

Mmm, I can't live there no more. (*Twice*)
And there ain't no place for a poor old girl to go.