

## **Bessie Smith, "Backwater Blues"**

### Verse 1

Statement: When it rains five days and the skies turn dark as night  
Restatement: When it rains five days and the skies turn dark as night  
Resolution: Then trouble's takin' place in the lowlands at night

### Verse 2

Statement: I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door  
Restatement: I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door  
Resolution: There's been enough trouble to make a poor girl wonder where she  
want to go

### Verse 3

Statement: Then they rowed a little boat about five miles 'cross the pond  
Restatement: Then they rowed a little boat about five miles 'cross the pond  
Resolution: I packed all my clothes, throwed them in and they rowed me along

### Verse 4

Statement: When it thunders and lightnin' and when the wind begins to blow  
Restatement: When it thunders and lightnin' and the wind begins to blow  
Resolution: There's thousands of people ain't got no place to go

### Verse 5

Statement: Then I went and stood upon some high old lonesome hill  
Restatement: Then I went and stood upon some high old lonesome hill  
Resolution: Then looked down on the house where I used to live

### Verse 6

Statement: Backwater blues done call me to pack my things and go  
Restatement: Backwater blues done call me to pack my things and go  
Resolution: 'Cause my house fell down and I can't live there no more

### Verse 7

Statement: Mmm, I can't move no more  
Restatement: Mmm, I can't move no more  
Resolution: There ain't no place for a poor old girl to go