

# Backwater Blues

Medium tempo

Words & Music by Bessie Smith

N.C. *mf* E

When it rained five days and the

A<sup>7</sup> E

skies turned dark as night,

A<sup>7</sup> E

rained five days and the skies turned dark as night,

B<sup>7</sup>

There was trou-ble tak-ing place\_ in the

E

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.