

## Bessie Smith

# "I've Got What It Takes (But It Breaks My...)"

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Oh Stingy Ginny saved up all her pennies  
Straight to the bank she would go  
The sharks would have their hands around her  
But none could get her dough  
Ginny's fellow was a slick high yellow  
Sent away to jail one day  
He cried for bail, then turned real pale  
When I(\*) heard Ginny say  
Oh I've got what it takes  
But it breaks my heart to give it away  
It's in demand  
They wants it every day  
I've been saving it up for a long long time  
To give it away would be more than a crime  
Your eyes may roll, your teeth may grit  
But none of my money will you git  
You can look at my bank book  
But I'll never let you feel my purse  
Cause I'm a woman, believes in safety first, safety first  
Said if you want my money, here's my plan  
I'm saving it up for a real good man  
I've got what it takes  
But it breaks my heart to give it away  
She said I've got what it takes  
But it breaks my heart to give it away  
It's in demand  
Folks cryin' for it every day  
I've been saving it up for a long long time  
To give it away would be more than a crime  
Your eyes may roll, your teeth may grit  
But none of this small change will you git  
You can look at my bank book  
But I'll never let you put your hands on my purse  
Lord I'm a woman, believes in safety first, safety first  
Say if you want my money, here's my plan  
I'm not savin' it up for no naked(?) man  
I've got what it takes  
But it breaks my heart to give it away  
(\*) Bessie distinctly says "I" though I think it should be  
"he".

