

## Bessie Smith

### "Pickpocket Blues"

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My best man, my best friend,  
told me to stop peddlin'1 gin  
They even told me to keep my hands  
out people's pocket where their money was in

But I wouldn't listen or have any shame,  
'long as someone else would take the blame  
Now I can see it all come home to me  
I'm sittin' in the jailhouse now  
I mean, I'm in the jailhouse now

I done stop runnin' around with this one  
and these good lookin' browns  
Any time you see me, I was good time bound,  
with this one, that one, most all in town  
I'm in the jailhouse now,  
I'm sittin' in the jailhouse now

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Note 1: peddlin', to travel about with wares, in this case gin, for sale. In a wider sense: to sell, or offer for sale from place to place.

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