

## **Iris Dement**

# **"City Of New Orleans"**

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Ridin' on the city of New Orleans  
Illinois Central Monday mornin' rail  
Fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders  
Three conductors, twenty-five sacks of mail  
Out on the southbound odyssey  
The train pulls out of Kakakee  
And it rolls along past houses, farms and fields  
Passin' towns that have no name  
Freight yards full of old black men  
And the graveyards of rusted automobiles

Good morning, America, how are you?  
Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son  
I'm the train they call the city of New Orleans  
I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done

Dealin' card games with the old men in the club car  
Penny a point ain't nobody keepin' score  
Pass the paper bag that holds the bottle  
Feel the wheels rumblin' 'neath the floor  
And the sons of pullman porters  
And the sons of engineers  
Ride their daddy's magic carpet make of steel  
Mothers with their babes asleep  
Are rockin' to the gentle beat  
And the rhythm of the rails is all they feel

Good morning, America, how are you?  
Say don't you know me, I'm your native son  
I'm the train they call the city of New Orleans  
I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done

Nighttime on the city of New Orleans  
Changin' cars in Memphis, Tennessee  
Halfway home and we'll be there by mornin'  
Thru the Mississippi darkness rollin' down to the sea  
But all the towns and people seem to fade into a bad  
dream  
And the steel rail still ain't heard the news  
The conductor sings that song again  
The passengers will please refrain  
This train's got the disappearin' railroad blues

Good morning, America, how are you?  
Say, don't you know me, I'm your native son  
I'm the train they call the city of New Orleans  
I'll be gone five hundred miles when the day is done

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