

## Sammi Smith

### "City of New Orleans"

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(Steve Goodman)

Ridin' on the City of New Orleans  
Illinois Central Monday morning rail  
There's fifteen cars and fifteen restless riders  
Three conductors and twenty-five sacks of mail.

Out on the southbound odyssey the train pulls out of  
Kankakee  
Rolling past houses farms and fields  
And passin' towns that have no names and  
freightyards full of old black men  
And the graveyards full of the rusted automobiles.

Good mornin' America how are you  
I said 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 hubdred miles when the day is done.

Dealin' cards with an old man on the club car  
Many a point ain't no one keepin' score  
Pass that paper bag that holds the bottle  
And feel the wheels a rumbling neath the floor.

And the sons of poor men porters and the sons of  
engineers  
Ride their father's magic carpet made of steel  
And mothers with their babes asleep rockin' to that  
gentle beat  
The rhythm of the rails is all they feel.

Good mornin' America how are you  
I said 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 hubdred miles when the day is done.

It's night time on the City of New Orleans  
Changin' cars in Memphis Tennessee  
A half way home and we'll be there by mornin'  
Through the Mississippi darkness rolling down to the  
sea.

But all the towns and cities seem to fade into a bad  
dream  
And the steel rails still ain't heard the news  
The conductor sings his songs again the passengers  
will please refrain  
This train have got the disappearing railroad blues.

Good mornin' America how are you  
I said 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 hubdred miles when the day is done...

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