

Nina Simone

"Ballad of Hollis Brown"

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Hollis Brown

He lived on the outside of town

Hollis Brown

He lived on the outside of town

With his wife and five children

And his cabin broken down

Where you looked for work and money

And you walked a rugged mile

You looked for work and money

And you walked a rugged mile

Your children are so hungry

That they don't know how to smile

Your baby's eyes look crazy

They're a-tuggin' at your sleeve

Your baby's eyes look crazy

They're a-tuggin' at your sleeve

You walk the floor and wonder why

With every breath you breathe

The rats have got your flour

Bad blood it got your mare

The rats have got your flour

Bad blood it got your mare

Is there anyone who knows?

Is there anyone who cares?

So you prayed to the Lord above

Please send you a friend

Yes you prayed to the Lord above

Please send you a friend

But your empty pockets tell you

That you ain't got no friends

Your babies are cryin' louder now

It's poundin' in your brain

Your babies are cryin' louder now

It's poundin' in your brain

Your wife's screams are stabbin' you

Like the dirty drivin' rain

Your grass is turnin' black
There's no water in your well
Your grass is turnin' black
There's no water in your well
You spent your last dollar
On seven shotgun shells

Way out in the wilderness
A cold coyote calls
Way out in the wilderness
A cold coyote calls
Your eyes fix on the shotgun
That's hangin' on the wall

Your brain is a-bleedin' now
Your legs can't seem to stand
Your brain is a-bleedin' now
Your legs can't seem to stand
Your eyes fix on the shotgun
That you're holdin' in your hand

There's seven breezes blowin'
All around the cabin door
There's seven breezes blowin'
All around the cabin door
Seven shots ring out
Like the ocean's poundin' roar

There's seven people dead
On a south Dakota farm
There's seven people dead
On a south Dakota farm
Somewhere in the distance
Seven new people are born

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