

## **Big Smith "Backwater"**

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I've gotta leave this country  
I think I'm goin' crazy  
Things are gettin' fuzzy  
The outlook's gettin' hazy  
I tried to cross the borders  
I tried to jump the fences  
I never made it farther than the smelly parts of Kansas  
Sometimes I feel like a cow led to the slaughter  
The longer I let myself linger here in this backwater

My lover went to Denver  
She said she got a strong notion  
And the last time I saw her  
She was flyin' 'cross the ocean  
She sent a short sting of letters  
Stating her position  
I didn't have the nerve I didn't have the vision  
She got tired of the rabble, tired of the fodder  
Tired of pickin' off the leeches livin' in this backwater

My great-great-great-great granddad  
Was a mean slave holder  
And all the founding fathers  
Are still sittin' on my shoulder  
But what does it matter  
Does it really figure  
One of my grandpas had a horse he named nigger  
That horse was healthy up until he bought her  
But then she took a big long drink out of this backwater

You swim upsteam

You float downstream

The sherrif's on the outskirts  
Roughin' up the outsiders  
No one ever blew the whistle  
On that old dogfighter  
Then he put 'em in a jailhouse  
Way below the standard  
And when they finally sued him he said that he'd been  
slandered

We let that dog suffer when we should have shot her  
You won't find a merciful gun here in this backwater

Everbody's lookin'  
Searchin' for an answer  
Some are gettin' gravy  
Some are gettin' cancer  
You might go to Heaven  
You might go to Hell  
You might go to Wal-Mart or maybe Taco Bell  
Tear out the wires and throw away the solder  
You won't find no hotline to God here in this backwater

I'll put up the wire  
If you feed the chickens  
And I'll chop their heads off  
If you do the feather pickin'  
I'll talk to your daddy  
He's waitin' in the kitchen  
I'll get his blessing and we can stop this itchin'  
I'll give you a son if you give me a daughter  
We'll settle down and raise 'em right here in this  
backwater

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