

# The Ballad Of Hollis Brown

Nina Simone

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 fallin' down

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  
If there's anyone that knows  
Is there anyone that cares?

You prayed to the lord above  
Oh please send you a friend  
You prayed to the lord above  
Oh please send you a friend  
Your empty pockets tell yuh  
That you ain't a-got no friend

Your babies are crying louder  
It's pounding on your brain

Your babies are crying louder now  
It's pounding on your brain  
Your wife's screams are stabbin' you  
Like the dirty drivin' rain

Your grass it is turning black  
There's no water in your well  
Your grass is turning black  
There's no water in your well  
You spent your last lone 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'  
And your legs can't seem to stand  
Your brain is a-bleedin'  
And your legs can't seem to stand  
Your eyes fix on the shotgun  
That you're holdin' in your hand

There's seven breezes a-blowin'  
All around the cabin door  
There's seven breezes a-blowin'  
All around the cabin door  
Seven shots ring out  
Like the ocean's pounding 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  
There's seven new people born