

THE JAMES ALLEY BLUES

is song number 61 in the Harry Smith Anthology. It was originally recorded by Richard (Rabbit) Brown in New Orleans, LA, on March 5, 1927. Brown was one of the first musicians to learn the twelve bar blues pattern, and was one of the most important New Orleans folk singers to record. He was famous for his dramatic guitar playing, which was similar in style to that of blues man, Willie Johnson.

I have tuned to the key of the original recording which is somewhere between C and C#, and have emulated the tempo, and blues licks Brown played.

D **G**
THE TIMES AIN'T NOW NOTHIN' LIKE THEY USED TO BE

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D **A7**
I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH; WON'T YOU TAKE MY WORD FROM ME?

I'VE SEEN BETTER DAYS, BUT I AIN'T PUTTIN' UP WITH THESE

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I HAD LOT BETTER TIMES WITH THE WOMEN DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS

CAUSE I WAS BORN IN THE COUNTRY SHE THINKS I'M EASY TO LOSE

CAUSE I WAS BORN IN THE COUNTRY SHE THINKS I'M EASY TO LOSE

SHE WANTS TO HITCH ME TO A WAGON AND DRIVE ME LIKE A MULE

I BOUGHT HER A GOLD RING AND I PAID THE RENT

I BOUGHT HER A GOLD RING AND I PAID THE RENT

SHE WANTS ME TO WASH HER CLOTHES, BUT I GOT GOOD COMMON SENSE

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME SO?

IF YOU DON'T WANT ME THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME SO?

IT AIN'T LIKE A MAN GOT NOWHERE TO GO

I GIVE YOU SUGAR FOR SUGAR, BUT ALL YOU WANT IS SALT FOR SALT

I GIVE YOU SUGAR FOR SUGAR, BUT ALL YOU WANT IS SALT FOR SALT

IF YOU CAN'T GET ALONG WITH ME, THEN IT'S YOU OWN FAULT

YOU WANT ME TO LOVE YOU, BUT THEN YOU JUST TREAT ME MEAN

YOU WANT ME TO LOVE YOU, BUT THEN YOU JUST TREAT ME MEAN

YOU'RE MY DAILY THOUGHT; YOU'RE MY NIGHTLY DREAM

SOMETIMES I JUST THINK THAT YOU'RE TOO SWEET TO DIE

SOMETIMES I JUST THINK THAT YOU'RE TOO SWEET TO DIE

AND OTHER TIMES I THINK YOU OUGHT TO BE BURIED ALIVE

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