

# TEE-TOT 1

## Scene & Song

### Start

HOSS. Now, his Christian name was Hiram.

HANK. Hey!

HOSS. So we called him Harm. Hell, we all had nicknames. Called me Hoss. Called him — *(Hank yanks Jimmy's hat off.)*

HANK. Hey, Burrhead!

HOSS. — Burrhead.

JIMMY. An' he learned his first song off an ol' street singer name a Tee-Tot. Man, Ida been afraid o' him myself, but ol' Hank dogged his tracks ...

HANK. Hey, you ol' Tee-Tot!

TEE-TOT. Well, hello, little boss. What you bring me today?

HANK. Got a new song. *(Hank sneaks him a bottle of whiskey.)*

TEE-TOT. A new song? I like that song, boss. I like it already.

HANK.

I GOT A HOME IN MONTGOMERY  
A PLACE I LIKE TO STAY  
BUT I HAVE TO WORK FOR THE WPA  
AND I'M DISSATISFIED — DISSATISFIED

TEE-TOT. That's it?

HANK. So far.

TEE-TOT. Kinda short, ain't it?

HANK. Well, it's brand new.

TEE-TOT. Let's hear it again.

HANK.

I GOT A HOME IN MONTGOMERY  
A PLACE I LIKE TO STAY  
BUT I HAVE TO WORK FOR THE WPA  
AND I'M DISSATISFIED — DISSATISFIED

TEE-TOT. What you got to be dissatisfied about?

HANK. It's just a song.

TEE-TOT. Ever been on relief?

HANK. No.

TEE-TOT. Work for the WPA?

HANK. No.

TEE-TOT. Then don't sing somebody else's damn song for 'em, excuse me! You wanna sing about hard times, find some o' your own. *(Tee-Tot sings to Hank's mean blues and guitar.)*

I'M GOIN' DOWN TO THE RIVER  
TAKE MY ROCKIN' CHAIR.

I sing to eat. I don't sing, I starve to death. *(Hank stops playing and stares at Tee-Tot.)*

TEE-TOT. Well, it might take a while, but it could happen!

I'M GOIN' DOWN TO THE RIVER  
WON'T TELL NOBODY WHERE

You choke down what *I've* had to swallow, ain't nothin' you *can* do but sing.

WHEN I GET DOWN TO THE RIVER  
I'M GONNA ROCK, I'M GONNA ROCK, I'M GONNA ROCK MY  
BLUES AWAY  
OH LAWD, OH LAWD, OH LAWD

But the blues don't fly, boss. They just works their way in deeper and deeper. Little boss, the trouble with you is I gotta explain everything. Well, I can't explain nothin' while I'm talkin'.

SHE'S LONG GONE  
AND NOW I'M  
SO LONESOME  
BLUE

*(He hits a high note that seems to last forever. Hank gradually starts a nice beat under it. When Tee-Tot finally comes down to earth, they both have a good laugh.)*

I HAD ME A WOMAN, SHE COULDN'T BE TRUE  
SHE MADE ME FOR MY MONEY AND SHE MADE ME BLUE  
A MAN NEEDS A WOMAN THAT HE CAN LEAN ON  
BUT MY LEANIN' POST IS PULLED UP AND GONE

HANK. Oh Lawd?

TEE-TOT. Oh Lawd!

HANK. Oh Lawd! *(Tee-Tot stares at Hank.)*

TEE-TOT. What you come around here for, little man?

HANK. I wanna do what you do, man! I wanna *rip it out!*

TEE-TOT. And when you done "rippin," then what?

HANK. Then what? Shoot! I don't care, man! I don't care 'bout *nothin'*.

TEE-TOT. You pretty fired up 'bout not carin' 'bout nothin'.

HANK. Well, that's how I am!

TEE-TOT. What you know 'bout what am? Sing, boy.

SHE'S LONG GONE

C'mon. *(Hank tries, sort of.)*

HANK.

SHE'S LONG GONE

TEE-TOT. No, no, lord no. *(Tee-Tot bears down on it.)* I said,

SHE'S LONG GONE

C'mon, now sing!

Stop