

# Noel Gourdin, The River

Growin' up, it was tough  
We were glad for what little we had  
I saw my share of old fair, Mississippi  
Dirt roads and Confederate flags  
Everyday my father would tell me  
"Son, run and don't never come back"  
That's where I left my girl  
That's where my heart is at, and ohh...

[chorus]  
I held my breath when they dipped my head  
Then I came up shiny and new  
Found out about love in the back of my Impala  
Where they laid my grandfather too  
Down by the river  
Where black folks gather  
After Sunday service is through  
How the river runs to the ocean  
I'll be runnin' right back to you

I got along, I'm movin' on  
I bandaged the scars up well  
I think of her, then I seem to wait  
For a card or a letter in the mail  
I walk the beach with the sand in my feet  
Place my ear to a shell  
I wonder if you miss me too  
Cuz I been longin' to get to you  
I'm sick of starin' out my window sill  
I'm tired of hopin' she remembers me still  
I'm packin' my bags, I said I'm goin' back home  
To the place where I belong  
The river  
And if she's there when I get there  
I'm never gonna leave her again  
You see, she stole my heart  
Down by the river

[chorus]  
So I'm packin' up my suitcase  
Bought me a one-way fare  
I'm leavin' everything behind me  
But in my heart I always care  
And I'll still be right there  
Thank you baby  
Cuz nothin' can replace that part in my life, and...