

Swamp Witch - Jim Stafford (1973)

[Verse 1]

D C
Black water Hattie lived back in the swamp
G D
Where the strange green reptiles crawl
(D) C
Snakes hang thick from the cypress trees
G D
Like sausage on a smokehouse wall
D
Where the swamp is alive with a thousand eyes
G
An' all of them watching you
D C
Stay off the track to Hattie's Shack
G/B G F D
In the back of the Black Bayou

D

[Verse 2]

D C
Way up the road from Hattie's Shack
G F D
Lies a sleepy little Okeechobe town
D C
Talk of swamp witch Hattie lock you
G F D
In when the sun go down
D G
Rumors of what she'd done, rumors of what she'd do
D C
Kept folks off the track of Hattie's shack
G F D
In the back of the Black Bayou

D C G F D

[Verse 3]

 D C
One day brought the rain and the rain stayed on
 G F D
And the swamp water overflowed
D C
Skeeters and the fever grabbed the town like a fist
 G F D
Doctor Jackson was the first to go
D
Some said the plague was brought by Hattie,
 G
there was talk of a hangin' too
 D C
But the talk got shackled by the howls and the cackles
 G F D
From the bowels of the Black Bayou

D C G F D

[Verse 4]

D C
Early one morn 'tween dark and dawn
 G F D
When shadows filled the sky
 D C
There came an unseen caller
 G F D
On a town where hope run dry
 D
In the square there was found a big black round
 G
vat full of gurgling brew
D C
Whispering sounds as the folks gathered round
 G F D
It came from the Black Bayou

D

D C
 There ain't much pride when you're trapped inside
 G F D
 A slowly sinkin' ship
 D C
 Scooped up the liquid deep and green
 G F D
 And the whole town took a sip
 D
 Fever went away and the very next day
 G
 the skies again were blue
 D C
 Let's thank old Hattie for savin' our town
 G F D
 We'll fetch her from the Black Bayou
 D

D C
Party of ten of the town's best men
G F D
headed for Hattie's Shack
D C
Said Swamp Witch magic was useful and good
G F D
And they're gonna bring Hattie back
D
Never found Hattie and they never found the shack
G
and they never made a trip back in
D C
There was a parchment note they found tacked to a stump
G F D
Said don't come lookin' again

D C G F D x8

(fade out)