Ballad of Hollis Brown

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Ebmi

(1) Hollis Brown, he lived
From the outside of town
Hollis Brown, he lived
From the outside of town
With his wife and five children
And his cabin brokin' down

(2) He looked for work and money
And he walked a rugged mile
He looked for work and money
And he walked a rugged mile
You children are so hungry
That they don't know how to smile

(3) Your baby's eyes look crazy
They're a tuggin' at you sleeve
Your baby's eyes look crazy
They're a tuggin' at you sleeve
You walk the floor and wonder why
With every breath you breathe

(4) The rats have got your flour
Bad blood it got your mare
The rats have got your flour
Bad blood it got your mare
Is there anyone that knows
Is there anyone that cares?

(5) He prayed the Lord above
Oh please send you a friend
He prayed the Lord above
Oh please send you a friend
You ain't a got no money boy
You ain't a got no friend

(6) Your baby's eyes are crying louder
It's pounding on your brain
Your baby's eyes are crying louder
It's pounding on your brain
You wife's screams are stabbin'
Like the dirty drivin' rain

(7) Your grass 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 dollar
On seven shot-gun shells

(8) Way out in the wildness
A cold coyote calls
Way out in the wildness
A cold coyote calls
Your eyes fix on a shot-gun
That's hangin' on the wall

(9) 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 shot-gun
That you're holding in your hand

(10) There's seven breezes a blowin'
All around the cabin door
There's seven breezes a blowin'
All around the cabin door
Seven shots sing out
Like the ocean's pounding roar

(11) 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