

DRINK SOME OF THAT MOGEN DAVID WINE So, what would be a good song to write about with Halloween approaching? Lightnin' Hopkins' Black Cat Blues, of course. We haven't featured a real old-time Texas blues in this space before. The magical guitar technique of Texas legends like Lightnin', Mance Lipscomb and Blind Lemon Jefferson might cause us to shy away from some of this music. But the 12-bar blues is actually a very accessible musical form. You don't have to play like Lightnin'. Just keep beating out the rhythm with your thumb, and you will do fine. You can hear Lightnin' do Black Cat Blues [here](#), or on the [HFMS Audio Archive](#). As a bonus track, listen to HFMS member John Lomax III talk about Lightnin', Townes Van Zandt, and the Houston Folklore Society [here](#). John's father managed Lightnin' for ten years, and was a founder of our organization in 1951.

(Spoken:)

This is the black cat told that white cat let's go across town and clown
The white cat told the black cat to sit his black self down, and I just left like this

E

The black cat told the white cat stay where you can be

E7

He said I believe you're trying to cheat poor me and then

A7

E

Kept on going across town...

B7

A7

E

B7

Poor white wouldn't even drink some of that ole' Mogen David wine

(Instrumental break -- strum through one verse like this:)

E /// E /// E /// E7 ///

A7 /// A7 /// E /// E ///

B7 /// A7 /// E /// B7 ///

E /// E /// E /// E7 ///

Alright

A7 /// A7 /// E /// E ///

B7 /// A7 /// E /// B7 ///

E E ///

Long time

E

E7

Just go ahead on and drink that Mogen David wine...

A7 /// A7 /// E /// E ///

B7 /// A7 /// E /// B7 ///

(Another Instrumental Break)

E

E

E

That black cat got worried, you know he got up again and danced

E7

A7

E

The white cat told the black cat sit down, said you look like you've got ants in your pants

B7

Black cat he can't get a word in

A7

E

B7

And he sat down and he said gimme a little bottle of that Thunderbird



<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/creation/4A3IEIOAw2utTW8LayoW>

E

Both of 'em are drinking wine

E E E7

One drinking Mogen David and the other drinking Thunderbird

A7

They got drunk and they began to stagger home together

E B7

Black cat looked to the white cat and said ain't we together, and he said, yeah.

E
Black cat told the white cat I believe you're feeling a clown

E E7

White cat told the black cat you better sit your black self down

A7

Because it ain't no time for clowning and carrying on like that.

E B7

that was that white cat.



Image from [A Story about Race - "Black Cat Blues"](#) by Lightnin' Hopkins



E

Black cat told the white cat he said you know we've been together and the white cat said yeah

A E

He said it don't make sense for us to get mad at one another and he said no

E
He said but you doing something I really don't like and he said what is it?

E
He said just because you'se the black cat

A E

The black cat told the white cat said I'm doing it because I'm in town

B7 E

Since I had the biggest privilege now you've got the privilege sit your white self down