

LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN

IT WAS ON A BRIGHT MARCH MORNING / THAT I BID NEW ORLEANS ADIEU
AND I TOOK THE ROAD TO JACKSON TOWN / MY FORTUNE TO RENEW
I CURSED ALL FOREIGN MONEY / NO CREDIT COULD I GAIN
AND SET MY HEART A-LONGING FOR / THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN

I STEPPED ABOARD A RAILROAD CAR / BENEATH THE MORNING SUN
AND I RODE THE RODS TILL EVENING / THEN LAID ME DOWN AGAIN
ALL STRANGERS THERE, NO FRIENDS TO ME / TILL A DARK GIRL TOWARDS ME CAME
AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH A CREOLE GIRL / BY THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN

I SAID "MY LITTLE CREOLE GIRL / MY MONEY HERE IS NO GOOD
AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE ALLIGATORS / I'D SLEEP OUT IN THE WOOD"
"YOU'RE WELCOME HERE, KIND STRANGER / OUR HOUSE IT'S VERY PLAIN
BUT WE NEVER TURN A STRANGER OUT / ON THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN"

SO SHE TOOK ME INTO HER MAMMY'S HOUSE / AND TREATED ME RIGHT WELL
THE HAIR HUNG OVER HER SHOULDERS / IN JET-BLACK RINGLETS FELL
TO TRY TO PAINT HER BEAUTY / I'M SURE 'TWOULD BE IN VAIN
SO HANDSOME WAS MY CREOLE GIRL / ON THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN

I ASKED HER IF SHE WOULD MARRY ME / BUT SHE SAID THAT COULD NEVER BE
FOR SHE HAD GOT A LOVER / AND HE WAS FAR AT SEA
SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD WAIT FOR HIM / AND TRUE SHE WOULD REMAIN
TILL HE RETURNED TO HIS CREOLE GIRL / BY THE LAKES OF PONTCHARTRAIN

SO FARE THEE WELL, MY BONNY WEE GIRL / PERHAPS I'LL NOT SEE YOU MORE
BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS / IN THAT COTTAGE BY THE SHORE
AND AT EACH SOCIAL GATHERING / A FLOWING GLASS I'LL DRAIN
AS I DRINK A HEALTH TO MY CREOLE GIRL / ON THE LAKES OF PONCHARTRAIN!