

Key of Cm

# EFFIE

Words by Peter H.D. McKee, © 1975  
Music by Bill Steele – “Garbage”

**Cm**

She was born one day in Tindall Heights,

a project then that had no whites -

G G7

one of 13 children and a mother all alone.

G7

Their apartment there was falling down,

Six brothers slept upon the ground,

While three young sisters in her bed

Cm

Was all that she had know.

G G7 Cm

And the roaches in the summer, with the rats that bit her toes.

Fm G7

The welfare workers shook their heads as Effie's trifling woes.

Cm G G7

(Chorus) Effie, Effie, how have you made it so far? Tell me,

Fm Cm G7

How have you smiled through all the pain that forces

Cm G Cm

others to cry out?

Oh alone one night at 14 years

she met a boy who dried her tears

but when she turned to call him,

he had vanished in the night.

Rejected like some worn-out toy

she soon gave birth to a healthy boy,

joys of new-born life

were slowly turning into fright.

So she fought it as she knew how, but it only made things worse -

at 34 with 11 kids, alone again, she'd start to curse.

(Chorus)

The house in which her children grew  
was far too small, but she made do  
with lights that didn't work  
and rusting pipes that sprang a leak.  
She told her landlord 'bout it all,  
he never did return her call.  
He simply sent a note that read,  
"You've got to be out next week,  
or we'll take you into court and sue you for the rent.  
That color television's where your welfare check is spent."

(Chorus)

She was shot five times by a jealous man,  
shot twice in the head and once in the hand.  
She survived, but never more  
could Effie work again.  
So now she sits at home all day  
with doctors bills that she can't pay.  
They want two thousand dollars  
but she only can get ten.  
And they tell her that her children are not cared for like the rest,  
but God almighty, can't you see she's trying her very best!?

(Chorus)