I was born on the banks of the river grew up in a floatin' shac \boldsymbol{k}

Old Man River was my front yard we had snakes and frogs out bac \ensuremath{k}

I learned to cry to a steamboat whistle I cut my teets on a pal of a cat

From this big star just to make my mark

I had to fight like a river rat I'm nothin' but a river rat Grab that net catch that fish it's all I've ever known Trap that otter don't you miss I'll give him the great alone With the temper of a stepped on rattler and the gall of a mean wild cat

Well the strong survive and just to stay alive You gotta fight like a river rat I'm a meaner than a river rat

I had me a woman down the river she had eyes for me alone She was here last night but like this wood with the mornin' tid e she was gone

To the night like the great Big Muddy was runnin' wild as blind as a bat

My dream was sank when it went over the bank

It drawned all the river rats and I was runnin' like a river rat

Grab that net...

I'm nothin' but a river rat I'm a meaner than a river rat