

# Black Fly Song

Wade Hemsworth  
(written in 1949)  
arr. Earle Peach

$\text{♩} = 86$  ( $\text{♩} = 172$ ) Jovial story-telling

*mf* 'Twas

*mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

**A** Verse 1 *options - solo, women unison, men unison, men and women unison*

7

ear-ly in the spring when I de-cide to go for to w .ne woods in North On - ta - ri - o, the

Verse 2

man\_ Black To-by was the cap-'n of the crew "I'm gon na tell you boys what we're gonna do; they

*mp*

11

un-em-ploy-ment of- y'd send me thru to the lit - tle A - bi - ti - bi with the sur - vey crew. And the

want to buil' er dam and we must find a way for to make the lit-tle Ab flow a-round the o-ther way" And the

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**B**

15

*mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, black fly, with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mf* black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the b' *f* I'll die with the black fly

**B**



20

1. *mp* pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o. *mf* So we

*mp* pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o.

*mp* pic-kin' my bone in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o.

*mp* pic-ki in North in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o.

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4 26 **C**

sur-vey to the east, and we sur-vey to the west, and we could-n't make our minds up how to do it best, Lit-tle

*mf*

do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do

*mp*

30

Ab, Lit-tle Ab, what shall I do? for I'm all but cra-zy on the sur-vey crew! and the

do do do do do do do do do do for I'm in' cra-zy on the sur-vey crew! and the

34 **D**

black fly, the lit-tle black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mf* *f*

black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* *mf* *f*

black fly, black fly, black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mf* *mf* *f*

black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

38 **F**

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39

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - ta

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - o.

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

**E** all women

44

black - fly, black - fly, black-fly ev - 'ry wher aw-lin' in yer whis - kers, a - craw-lin' in yer hair.

A

48

O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

cra' r soup, and a - craw-lin' in yer tea, O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

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6

**F**

52

*mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, black fly, the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, black fly, black fly, die with the black fly

*mf* black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black fly, I'll die with the black fly

**F**

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

*baritone or tenor solo*

57

*mp* pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. At

*mf* *p* Ped.

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**G**

*rubato (back-ground vocals follow)  
take your time and tell the story*

62

last the job was o - ver, Black To-by said "We're thru, with the Lit-tle A - bi - ti - bi and the sur - vey crew". 'T'was a

*mp* oo, a oo, a oo oh oo

*mp* oo, a oo, a oo oh oo

*mp* oo, a oo, a oo oh oo

*pp*

66

*rit.*

won-der-ful ex-pe-ri-ence and this I know: I'll ne-ver go a-gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*f* *mp*

oo. I know: I'll ne-ver go a-gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*f* *mp*

oo and this I know: I'll ne-ver go a-gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf* *f* *mp*

oo and this I know: I'll ne-ver go a-gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*rit.* *mp*

♩ = 130

♩ = 130

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black fly, the lit-tle black fly, al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly  
 black fly black fly, black fly, black fly, .th the black fly  
 black fly, black fly, black fly, black fly, die with the black fly  
 black fly, the black fly, the black fly, the black I'll die with the black fly

**accel.**

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. in North On - ta - ri - o. *rit.* **f** *\*an imaginary fly - on your neck. slap!\**  
 pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. in North On - ta - ri - o. **f** *slap!\**  
 pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. in North On - ta - ri - o. **f** *slap!\**  
 pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o. in North On - ta - ri - o. **f** *slap!\**

ated that he wrote this song, while in Labrador. The song talks about the experiences he had while accompanying an Hydro-Electric mission of an Ontario crew - surveying the Little Abitibi River to determine the feasibility of erecting a dam - the Abitibi Canyon Station. He also mentioned "I wasn't with Black Toby ... that was another expedition. I was writing a song - I wasn't writing historical literature."

sky **black fly** (sometimes called a buffalo gnat, turkey gnat or white socks) gains nourishment by feeding on the blood of mammals, including humans.

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