

# The Rise of the Black Messiah

## Indigo Girls

Advisory - the following lyrics contain explicit language:

They called you "The rise of the Black Messiah" like so many boys before you  
And they'll be more, more to follow threatening and hard to swallow I'm sitting underneath that hanging tree,  
just me and the ghost of the KKK  
Poor man's gallows in the middle of the woods - the saddest tree that ever stood My friend I heard you tell of  
slavery's end but have you heard of mass incarceration  
That ol' Jim Crow he just keeps getting born with a new hanging rope for the black man's scourge Hey Ol' Man  
River what do you know of that plantation they call Angola?  
The devil spawned a prison there - the saddest farm that ever lived Your great-granddaddy he worked that land  
with shackles on his feet and on hands  
He built them levees he chopped that can he died in the mud in his chains  
Now you stand where he once stood shackles on you all the same But he's gonna rise, he's gonna rise and all  
them lynchers are gonna be damned  
When outta that mud walks a brand new man They called you "The Rise of the Black Messiah" and said they'd  
do any damn  
thing they could to keep ya-  
You and your brothers from spreading the word, the gospel of freedom and  
Black man's worth 40 years in solitary, consider the man they just can't bury  
I got this letter in my hand, saying tell this story when you can He's gonna rise, he's gonna rise and all them  
lynchers are gonna be damned  
When outta that hold walks a brand new man

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