

## Crocodile Man

Dave Carter as sung by Chris Smither III-21

### Verses are spoken

#### G with riffs throughout verses

G

Mama she raised me on riddles and trances, fatback, channel-cat,  
lily white lies. Rocked my cradle in a Jimmy-crack fancy,  
never met Papa and I never asked why (pause)

G

People say papa wasn't no-account anyway, people say papa was a  
rolling stone. I turned twenty on the Waccamaw throughway,  
hitching upriver in the dark alone

### Chorus:

C		F		C		G
Sleeping with a stranger in a no-name town, Thanksgiving dinner						
	F		D		C	
at the Top Hat Lounge. Christmas Eve at the Fantasy Tan,						
G			F		C	
Lord have mercy on the crocodile man,						
		F		C		
Lord have mercy on the crocodile man						

Hooked up with a carny a little outta Memphis, slaving in a sideshow,  
pennies in a jar, Beetle-eyed jokers and hicktown princes,  
rhinestone rubies and rubber cigars (pause)

Wrassled me a gator up in Omaha City, did me another down in New Orleans  
Tangled with the barker, run off with the kitty,  
crawled the Mississippi and I got away clean

### Chorus

#### Break

Underneath the levee in a cattail thicket, hidden in the shadow of a shady grove  
There's a thatched roof rising from a poke fence picket,  
White smoke billows from a kettle-black stove (pause)

Inside the house is the hall of mirrors, inside the mirror is the temple of sin  
Inside the temple is the face of Mama, and Mama she know just where I been  
Yeah, Mama know exactly where her bad boy been

### Chorus