

Little Moses

Carter Family

7

13

19

Chorus

1. Away by the river so clear,
The ladies were winding their way;
While Pharaoh's little daughter
Went down to the water
To bathe in the cool of the day.

Chorus (2x)

Before it was dark she opened the ark
And found the sweet infant was there.

2. And away by the waters so blue,
The infant was lonely and sad.
She took him in pity
And thought him so pretty
And it made little Moses so glad.

Chorus (2x)

She called him her own, her beautiful son
And sent for a nurse who was near.

3. And away by the river so clear
They carried that beautiful child
To his tender mother,
His sister and brothers
Little Moses looked happy and smiled.

Chorus (2x)

His mother so good did all that she could
To raise him and teach him with care.

3. And away by the sea that was red,
Little Moses the servant of God
While in him confided,
The sea was divided
As upwards he lifted his rod.

Chorus (2x)

And the Jews safely crossed while Pharaoh's host
Were drowned in the waters and lost.

4. And away on a mountain so high,
The last that he ever did see.
With Israel victorious,
His hopes were most glorious
He'd soon over Jordan be free.

Chorus (2x)

When his spirit did cease, he departed in peace
And rested in the Heavens above.

The Carter Family recorded “Little Moses” in February 14, 1929, their third session for Victor. Sara Carter learned this “religious ballad” from an older relative, Myrtle Bayes and the song was collected in 1905 under the title “Moses in the Bulrushes” in **Ballads and Songs Collected by the Missouri Folklore Society**. For the original recording, Maybelle tuned her guitar down a whole tone so Sara could sing and play the autoharp in Bb while Maybelle fingered the guitar in C. This setting in G suits my voice better.

It was recorded by The Carter Family, The New Lost City Ramblers, John McCutcheon, Ralph Stanley, Joan Baez and others.

The recording is included in **The Anthology of American Folk Music**.