

## No Woman No Cry

(Bob Marley and the Wailers)

[Chorus]

No woman, no cry  
No woman, no cry  
No woman, no cry  
No woman, no cry

[Verse 1]

I remember when we used to sit  
In the government yard in Trenchtown  
Oba, observing the hypocrites  
As they would mingle with the good people  
we meet  
Good friends we have had, oh good friends  
we've lost along the way (way)  
In this bright future you can't forget your  
past  
So dry your tears I say

[Chorus]

No woman, no cry  
No woman, no cry  
Little darling don't shed no tears  
No woman, no cry

[Verse 2]

Said, said, said I remember when we used to  
sit  
In the government yard in Trenchtown  
And then Georgie would make the fire light  
As if it was log wood burning through the  
night  
Then we would cook corn meal porridge  
Of which I'll share with you  
My feet is my only carriage  
So I've got to push on through  
But while I'm gone

[Bridge]

Everything's going to be alright  
(x 8)  
So woman don't cry  
No, woman  
(No woman, no cry)  
Oh my little sister, don't shed no tears  
(No Woman, no cry)  
Yeah

[Guitar breakdown]

[Verse 3]

I said I remember when we used to sit  
In the government yard in Trenchtown  
And then Georgie would make the fire light  
As if it was log wood burning through the  
night  
Then we would cook corn meal porridge  
Of which I'll share with you  
My feet is my only carriage, yah  
So I've got to push on through  
But while I'm gone

[Bridge 2]

No woman, no cry  
I said: no woman, no cry  
Ooh sister, don't shed no tears  
No woman, no cry  
Woman no cry, don't shed no tears  
No woman no cry

[Chorus]

Little darling, don't shed no tears  
No woman no cry  
Little sister, don't shed no tears  
No woman, no cry

"No Woman, No Cry" is a reggae song by Bob Marley and the Wailers. The song first became known in 1974 through the studio album *Natty Dread*. The live version from the 1975 album *Live!* was released as a single and is the best known version — it was included on the greatest hits compilation *Legend* and was recorded at the Lyceum Theatre in London on July 19, 1975 as part of his *Natty Dread Tour*.

The live version of the song ranked No. 37 on *Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time*.

Though Bob Marley may have written the song, or at least the melody, songwriter credits were given to Vincent Ford, a friend of Marley's who ran a soup kitchen in Trenchtown, the ghetto of Kingston, Jamaica where Marley grew up. The royalty payments received by Ford ensured his efforts would continue.

The original demo version of the song which is unreleased was a Gospel version. This version had only the piano riff as the main instrument and was recorded in London for Island Records in 1973 with Peter Tosh and some unknown female backing singers. At the same time of this recording, the demo of the Island version of "Lively up Yourself" was also recorded. This was the last time all three original Wailers (Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and Neville "Bunny" Livingston - also known as Bunny Wailer) recorded together in a studio. These versions remain unreleased.

The title and main refrain, "No Woman, No Cry" is rendered "No, woman, nuh cry" in Jamaican Patois. The "nuh" is pronounced with a short schwa vowel (a "mumbled" vowel, often represented as "uh" in spelling) and represents a clitic ("weakened") form of "no". It is the equivalent to the contraction "don't". The song is about growing up in the ghetto and persuading a woman that things will get better, entreating her not to cry.