

Joe Louis Walker – Blues Survivor (1992)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Help Yourself* 06:53 02. *Shake For Me* 06:49 03. *My Dignity* 05:39 04. *Young Girl's Eyes* 04:22 [play](#) 05. *Part Of Me* 07:25 06. *Bad Thing* 05:12 07. *You Just Don't Know* 05:50
08. *Put You Down, Baby (Album Version)* 04:49 [play](#) 09. *Blues Survivor* 06:38
10. *Rainy Nights* 05:24 11. *Workin' Blues* 05:04

Joe Louis Walker And The Bosstalkers: Joe Louis Walker (guitar, slide guitar, vocals), Tim Devine (saxophones), Jeff Lewis (trumpet), Mike Eppley (keyboards), Henry Oden (bass), Paul Revelli (drums).

By no means a bad album, Walker's major-label debut just wasn't quite as terrific as what directly preceded it. The studio atmosphere seems a bit slicker than before, and the songs are in several cases considerably longer than they need to be (generally in the five- to seven-minute range). A reworking of Howlin' Wolf's "Shake for Me" is the only familiar entry. --- Bill Dahl, AllMusic Review

I love this CD. Joe Louis Walker cuts some great recordings, and this is my favorite. My favorite is "My Dignity," which is borderline jazz and builds to a great climax during the saxophone solo. Other high points include the infectious grooves and great guitar playing on "Shake for Me" and "Young Girl's Eyes," as well as the story telling of "Blues Survivor." "Part of Me" is a great ballad blues, but far from placid. It has lots of emotional hills and valleys. "Bad Thing" has awesome guitar and piano solos. The horns in the recording also compliment it very well. Trust me. This CD will not bore you. At first listen, you might associate JLW's style with Robert Cray's style, but JLW's voice is more dynamic, and he has a rare talent for presenting many different styles of blues on this, as well as most of his CDs.

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I also love the way the recording is produced. There is just enough reverb (and not too much) so that if you turn it up real loud on a nice stereo, it sounds just like you are in a blues bar with a killer sound system. All of JLW's other CDs are great too (especially "JLW," which features the Tower of Power horns, & "Blues of the Month Club,"). Even though the horns on this CD aren't T.O.P., the compositions and production of this recording are what give it the edge for me. --- RHR3 "Music Lover/Book Fan" amazon.com

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