

The Nighthawks - Jacks & Kings Vol. I & II (1978)

Written by bluesever

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01. *For You, My Love* 02. *Come Baby* 03. *Love Me or Leave Me* 04. *Dust My Broom* 05. *(Thank You) Sugar Mama* 06. *The Sky Is Crying* 07. *Pinetop's Boogie Woogie* 08. *Floyd's Guitar Blues* 09. *Walkin' by Myself* 10. *Little Queenie* 11. *Born in Chigago* 12. *Anna Lee* 13. *Two Bugs & a Roach* 14. *Lickin' Gravy* 15. *Sea Cruise* 16. *Nervous Breakdown* 17. *Rockin' the Boogie* 18. *After Hours* 19. *Mother-in-Law Blues* 20. *Gotta Get My Baby Back*
Personnel: Jimmy Thackery - Guitar, Vocals Mark Wenner - Harmonica, Vocals Jan Zukowski - Bass Pete Ragusa - Drums + Bob Margolin - Guitar Luther 'Guitar Junior' Johnson - Guitar, Vocals Pinetop Perkins - Piano, Vocals Dave Maxwell - Piano, Organ Calvin Jones – Vocals The Rhythm Kings Horns The Phantom Horns

Classic material and stirring playing. A must-find. The Nighthawks were playing with Muddy Waters at the Cellar Door at the time, so they invited his band to come into the studio after hours to record some classic Chicago blues tunes. The result was a classic—a showcase of inspired playing of outstanding blues, titled 'Jacks & Kings.' The band to this day regards this as one of their finest moments, and it became probably their best selling album. In 1979, Adelphi created 'Jacks & Kings, Volume 2: Full House.' This featured some quality, previously unreleased material from 'Side Pocket Shot' and the Jacks & Kings sessions. It was another solid showcase of classic blues mixed with rock and roll, and has been re-released as the combined CD 'Jacks & Kings Volume I & II.'

This CD is a little tough to review in that it is really two albums combined. The first is a classic bar band blues set with backing provided by regulars from the Muddy Waters band. The second veers more toward R&B and rock. The first album is definitely superior but since it is sold at single CD prices, the second album is really just a bonus. One other quibble is that an excellent slow blues number, 'Got A Mind To Travel', was dropped from the original Volume One vinyl and also 'Before You Accuse Me' was dropped from Volume Two. What's left is mostly uptempo good-time blues by a band that loves its work. ---amazon.com

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