

## Odetta - Sings Ballads and Blues (1956)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Spiritual Trilogy* [6:05]
  2. *Santy Anno* [1:56]
  3. *If I Had a Ribbon Bow* [2:43]
  4. *Muleskinner Blues* [2:51]
  5. *Another Man Done Gone* [2:12]
  6. *Shame and Scandal* [2:23]
  7. *'Buked and Scorned* [3:15]
  8. *Jack O' Diamonds* [2:41]
  9. *Easy Rider* [5:07]
  10. *Joshua* [1:54]
  11. *Hound Dog* [3:50]
  12. *Glory, Glory* [2:12]
  13. *Alabama Bound* [1:42]
  14. *Been In the Pen* [2:33]
  15. *Deep Blue Sea* [3:02]
  16. *God's Gonna Cut You Down* [1:51]
- Odetta Holmes – vocals, acoustic guitar, hand claps

Odetta's debut album was a strong, confident effort featuring just her and her guitar on 16 tracks, most of which were traditional in origin. In its day, it was quite an influential recording; Bob Dylan, in fact, once cited this record in particular as the one that made him decide to trade in his electric guitar and amplifier for an acoustic guitar. Several of the songs would find their ways into the repertoires of subsequent folkies, and even some folk-rock bands. There's no way of knowing whether they heard the tunes first on this release, but it's entirely possible, as it was one of the first strong traditional folk LPs. It's now been reissued on CD, and retains a lot of its original appeal in the power and emotional depth of the performances. --- Richie Unterberger, Rovi

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