

Joss Stone - Water For Your Soul (2015)

Written by bluelover

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1 Love Me 5:07 2 This Ain't Love 4:28 3 Stuck On You 4:19 4 Star 5:08 5 Let Me Breathe 5:16 6 Cut The Line 4:07 7 Wake Up 4:44 8 Way Oh 5:49 9 Underworld 4:08 10 Molly Town 3:34 11 Sensimilla 4:18 12 Harry's Symphony 3:54 13 Clean Water 4:31 14 The Answer 4:47 + 15 Water For Your Soul 4:35 Ponciano Almeida Berimbau Stanley Andrews Guitar Spy Austin Vocals Luke Bonenfant Vocals Dennis Bovell Bass, Composer, Vocals (Background) Joe Broughton Violin Damon Bryson Tuba Marc Cyril Bass, Composer Ava DiLouie Vocals Steve Down Guitar, Guitar (Acoustic) Aref Durvesh Tabla Sarah Harrison Violin Pete Iannacone Bass Antonia Jenaé Vocals (Background) Michelle John Vocals (Background) Linton Kwesi Johnson Vocal Samples Jonathan Joseph Drums Jules 'Juda' Bartholomew Arranger, Choir Director Ellison Kendrick Vocals (Background) Brock Lichthardt Vocals Artia Lockett Vocals (Background) London Session Orchestra Strings Neville Malcolm Bass, Composer, Guitar, Guitar (Electric) Wil Malone String Arrangements, Strings Damian Marley Composer, Vocals Leon Mobley Percussion Christina Olson Vocals Janet Ramus Vocals (Background) Ricardo Jordan Drums Orphy Robinson Vibraphone Nitin Sawhney Guitar (Nylon String) Jeff Scantleberry Congas, Drums, Percussion Jonathan Shorten Accordion, Clavinet, Composer, Engineer, Fender Rhodes, Keyboards, Melodica, Organ, Organ (Hammond), Piano, Producer, Wurlitzer Ian Smith Trombone, Trumpet Ashwin Srinivasan Flute Richie Stevens Composer, Drums Joss Stone Composer, Primary Artist, Producer, Vocals (Background) Paloma Trigas Violin Jeff Watkins Horn Arrangements, Saxophone Alan Weekes Guitar, Guitar (Electric)

The concept of Joss Stone's seventh studio release began to take shape following the formation of SuperHeavy, the multicultural, cross-generational group that released an awkward if free-spirited album in 2011, just before *The Soul Sessions, Vol. 2* materialized. Among Stone's bandmates was Damian Marley, who implored the singer to cut a reggae album. Stone was hesitant at first but conceded, perhaps realizing that a drastic switch in her vocal approach would not be required. (She wouldn't even have to avoid using the word "soul" in the album's title.) More importantly, Marley wasn't fooling. He followed through and co-produced this with Stone. The duo devised a set of songs that often uses reggae as a foundation but incorporates a familiar mix of soul, rock, and roots music with light accents from tablas, Irish fiddles, and

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flamenco guitar. Even when the album deviates most from the singer's previous releases -- specifically in "Way Oh," during its chorus and forced-sounding references to a "buffalo soldier," likely a nod to Marley's father -- Water for Your Soul always sounds like Joss Stone. Her voice remains in debt to classic soul as much as ever. Additionally, she continues to switch from emotion to emotion with full-bore conviction. From one song to another, there are some extreme swings in sentiment. In "Let Me Breathe," she begs for release from a stifling relationship she cannot resist. She follows it with the exasperated "Cut the Line" -- fluid and dubwise, the album's song with the most surface appeal -- where "I can't get over how you're shutting me out" is delivered with the same amount of "help me out here" force. While one can always sense the pain and joy in the mere sound of Stone's voice, some of the songs' lines provoke head scratching rather than knowing nods. Through deep, repeated listening, the album increasingly resembles ragtag emoting. Heard passively, it's all pleasant summertime listening. ---Andy Kellman, AllMusic Review

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