Crucial Live Blues (2004)



01. Riding the Blinds - Lonnie Mack 02. Tired Man - Albert Collins 03. Cherry Red Wine - Luther Allison 04. Going Back to luka - Koko Taylor 05. My Dog - Elvin Bishop <u>play</u> 06. Eyes Like a Cat - Little Charlie & the Nightcats 07. Dump That Chump - Saffire -- The Uppity Blues Women 08. Born With the Blues - Lonnie Brooks 09. Born in Chicago - James Cotton play

10. Call My Job - Son Seals 11. Gonig Back to Louisiana - Delbert McClinton 12. Short Fuse Blues - Dave Hole 13. Dust My Broom - Hound Dog Taylor

Blues, like jazz, is often at its most striking in a live setting, where the interplay between the musicians and the feedback from the audience serves to push things to a high edge. This explosive collection from Alligator Records gathers 13 live tracks from an assortment of players, and there really isn't a slack cut here. Koko Taylor's "Going Back to luka" lyrically deals with a kind of resigned retreat back home, but Taylor delivers the song with such sass that it sounds more like a powerfully triumphant statement. Delbert McClinton pulls off the same trick with "Going Back to Louisiana," and in a different way, so does Son Seals as he turns desperation into a moral victory in "Call My Job." The closing track is the absolute steamroller, though, as the late Hound Dog Taylor blasts his way through a loose-kneed version of Robert Johnson's (by way of Elmore James) "Dust My Broom" with all the subtlety of a locomotive headed for a cliff with a drunk and passed-out brakeman and the throttle stuck wide open. --- Steve Leggett, allmusic.com

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