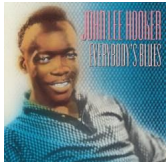


John Lee Hooker □ – Everybody's Blues (1954/1993)

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1 *Do My Baby Think Of Me* 2:52 2 *Three Long Years Today* 3:04 3 *Strike Blues* 2:37 4 *Grinder Man* 3:10 5 *Walkin' This Highway* 2:16 6 *Four Women In My Life* 3:11 7 *I Need Lovin'* 2:54 8 *Find Me A Woman* 2:39 9 *I'm Mad* 2:44 10 *I Been Done So Wrong* 2:42 11 *Boogie Rambler* 2:36 12 *I Keep The Blues* 2:29 13 *No More Doggin' AKA No More Foolin'* 2:25 14 *Everybody's Blues* 2:48 15 *Anyone's Blues (I Love You Baby)* 2:19 16 *Locked Up In Jail AKA Prison Blues* 2:47 17 *Nothin' But Trouble (Don't Take Your Wife's Family In)* 3:23 18 *I Need Love So Bad* 3:08 19 *Don't Trust Nobody* 3:44 20 *Odds Against Me AKA Backbiters And Syndicators* 3:06

John Lee Hooker - guitar, vocals + Johnny Griffith - piano (tracks: 9 to 16) Johnny Hooks - saxophone (tracks: 9 to 16) Theophilus Roosevelt - bass (tracks: 9 to 16) Thomas Whitehead - drums (tracks: 9 to 16)

John Lee Hooker reissues abound, as might be expected of a singer and guitarist who's recorded hundreds of songs for countless labels since the late '40s. What makes the 20 tracks on *Everybody's Blues* different from the mountain of other Hooker material available is the fact that seven of them are newly issued, and most were done in the studio with Hooker wailing and accompanying himself on guitar minus any backing chorus or production armada. Even the cuts with a supporting combo are animated and loose, with the vocal trademarks that are now established Hooker clichés sounding fresh and genuine. ---Ron Wynn, AllMusic Review

This compilation of recordings from 1950, '51, and '54 for the Modern and Specialty labels is an intriguing relic from Hooker's past. Many of these sides went unreleased, due to Specialty president Art Rupe's dissatisfaction with the singer-guitarist's crude style. But that's precisely why this CD is a treat for lovers of lowdown blues. Mostly it's Hooker alone--almost always the way he sounds best. Still, there are chances to hear him with horns and a gestational version of

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what would eventually become his hair-raising "I'm Bad Like Jesse James" (called "I'm Mad") that features fleet piano accompaniment. There's also an early reading of "Backbiters and Syndicators" (named "Odds Against Me") that showcases Hooker's riveting backcountry guitar virtuosity. --Ted Drozdowski, amazon.com

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