

John Mayall - Thru the Years (1971)

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01. *Crocodile Walk*
02. *My Baby Is Sweeter*
03. *Crawling Up A Hill*
04. *Mama, Talk To Your Daughter*
05. *Alabama Blues John Mayall*
06. *Out Of Reach*
07. *Greeny*
08. *Curly*
09. *Missing You*
10. *Please Don't Tell John Mayall*
11. *Your Funeral And My Trial*
12. *Suspicious*
13. *Knockers Step Forward*
14. *Hide And Seek*

John Mayall (vocals, guitar, harmonica, organ, keyboards);
Peter Green (vocals, guitar, harmonica);
Roger Dean, Eric Clapton, Bernie Watson, Mick Taylor (guitar);
Dick Heckstall-Smith (saxophone, soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone);
Chris Mercer (saxophone, tenor saxophone);
Henry Lowther (trumpet);
Martin Hart, Jon Hiseman, Keef Hartley, Aynsley Dunbar, Hughie Flint (drums).

A grab bag of rare tracks from the '60s, some of which stand among Mayall's finest. His debut 1964 single "Crawling up a Hill" is one of his best originals; this comp also includes a couple of 1964-65 flip sides that were never otherwise issued in the U.S. The eight songs featuring Peter Green include some top-notch material that outpaces much of the only album recorded by the Green lineup (A Hard Road), particularly the Green originals "Missing You" and "Out of Reach,"

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a great B-side with devastating, icy guitar lines and downbeat lyrics that ranks as one of the great lost blues-rock cuts of the '60s. The set is filled out with a few songs from the Mick Taylor era, the highlight being the vicious instrumental "Knockers Step Forward." Look for the CD reissue and not the early-'70s double U.S. album of the same name, which includes a lot of superfluous material and omits the three 1964-65 songs from British 45s. ---Richie Unterberger, allmusic.com

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