

Coco Montoya - Dirty Deal (2007)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Last Dirty Deal*
2. *Three Sides To Every Story*
3. *Love Gotcha*
4. *How Do You Sleep At Night_*
5. *It Takes Time*
6. *It's My Own Tears*
7. *Coin Operated Love*
8. *Clean Slate*
9. *Put The Shoe On The Other Foot*
10. *It's All Your Fault*
11. *Ain't No Brakeman*

Coco Montoya (vocals, guitar); Coco Montoya; Paul Barrère (guitar, slide guitar, percussion, background vocals); Fred Tackett (guitar); Kenny Gradney, Steve Evans (electric bass); Tony Stead, Bill Payne (keyboards); Randy Hayes, Richie Hayward (drums); Roger Cole (percussion, background vocals); Ed Kanon (percussion).

At times on Dirty Deal, it's virtually a Little Feat reunion, with five members from the classic lineup helping out on "Three Sides to Every Story," giving it a wonderful, funky momentum. Coco Montoya himself is definitely a better-than-average guitarist and singer when it comes to the R&B/blues axis, although he's at his best on tracks like "How Do You Sleep at Night?" where he has the chance to pull more emotion from his instrument; in this case, more than a touch of bitterness. He's cut from the same cloth as Robert Cray, but without the same soulful subtlety. Montoya is more a shot and a beer than a smooth cocktail. You come away from this with the sense that he holds nothing back, and even a performance in the studio would be sweaty; there's that amount of commitment. And while he may not be one of the guitar gods, when he unleashes a flurry of notes (as on "It Takes Time") he's still a powerhouse. Perhaps the biggest problem is that, although he cranks in all departments, there's very little to really distinguish his music from many others mining the same seam. --- Chris Nickson, allmusic.com

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