

Skip James - Devil Got My Woman (1989)

Written by bluesever

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A1 Good Road Camp Blues 3:47 A2 Little Cow And Calf Is Gonna Die Blue 3:20 A3 Devil Got My Woman 5:10 A4 Look At The People Standing At The Judgement 2:58 A5 Worried Blues 5:55 A6 22-20 Blues 3:50 B1 Mistreating Child Blues 3:54 B2 Sickbed Blues 4:05 B3 Catfish Blues 4:35 B4 Lorenzo Blues 4:17 B5 Careless Love 3:59 B6 Illinois Blues 3:15 Skip James - vocals, piano, guitar rec. March 22-24, 1967 in New York City

The 1968 Vanguard follow-up to *Today!* has another dozen semiautobiographical or entirely personalized traditional songs that attest to his almost unparalleled artistry. As is his wont, women figure prominently in his poetic piques. More mandatory listening: *50 Years: Mississippi Blues in Bentonia, 1931-1981* (Wolf import CD), James's eighteen existing sides from 1931 along with five songs by kindred spirit Jack Owens in 1981. -- © Frank John Hadley 1993, amazon.com

Skip James made his original reputation with 17 recordings that he cut during February 1931, when he was 28. Although fluent on both the guitar and (to a lesser extent) the piano, James was most notable for his storytelling lyrics, his haunting high-pitched voice, and his distinctive interpretations of the Delta blues. James was rediscovered 33 years after his early recordings, in time to appear at the 1964 Newport Folk Festival. He was quite active during 1964-1966, making the music on this solo CD (his last record) three years before his death in 1969. One can easily hear the influence that Skip James' music had on the then flourishing folk music movement, and he still sang his country blues with great intensity. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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