

## Canned Heat & John Lee Hooker – Hooker 'N Heat (1971)

Written by bluesever

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1. "Messin' with the Hook" – 3:23 2. "The Feelin' Is Gone" – 4:32 3. "Send Me Your Pillow" – 4:48 4. "Sittin' Here Thinkin'" – 4:07 5. "Meet Me in the Bottom" – 3:34 6. "Alimonia Blues" – 4:31 7. "Driftin' Blues" – 4:57 8. "You Talk Too Much" – 3:16 9. "Burnin' Hell" (Bernard Besman, Hooker) – 5:28 10. "Bottle Up and Go" – 2:27 11. "The World Today" – 7:47 12. "I Got My Eyes on You" – 4:26 13. "Whiskey and Wimmen'" – 4:37 14. "Just You and Me" – 7:42 15. "Let's Make It" – 4:06 16. "Peavine" – 5:07 17. "Boogie Chillen No. 2" – 11:33 Personnel: John Lee Hooker - Composer, Guitar, Instrumentation, Rhythm, Vocals Antonio de la Barreda - Bass Adolfo de la Parra - Drums, Percussion Henry Vestine – Guitar Alan Wilson - Guitar, Harmonica, Piano, Vocals Bob Hite - vocals

When this two-LP set was initially released in January 1971, Canned Heat was back to its R&B roots, sporting slightly revised personnel. In the spring of the previous year, Larry "The Mole" Taylor (bass) and Harvey Mandel (guitar) simultaneously accepted invitations to join John Mayall's concurrent incarnation of the Bluesbreakers. This marked the return of Henry "Sunflower" Vestine (guitar) and the incorporation of Antonio "Tony" de la Barreda (bass), a highly skilled constituent of Adolfo de la Parra (drums). Sadly, it would also be the final effort to include co-founder Alan "Blind Owl" Wilson, who passed away in September 1970. Hooker 'n Heat (1971) is a low-key affair split between unaccompanied solo John Lee Hooker (guitar/vocals) tunes, collaborations between Hooker and Wilson (piano/guitar/harmonica), as well as five full-blown confabs between Hooker and Heat. The first platter focuses on Hooker's looser entries that vacillate from the relatively uninspired ramblings of "Send Me Your Pillow" and "Drifter" to the essential and guttural "Feelin' Is Gone" or spirited "Bottle Up and Go." The latter being among those with Wilson on piano. Perhaps the best of the batch is the lengthy seven-minute-plus "World Today," which is languid and poignant talking blues, with Hooker lamenting the concurrent state of affairs around the globe. "I Got My Eyes on You" is an unabashed derivative of Hooker's classic "Dimples," with the title changed for what were most likely legal rather than artistic concerns. That said, the readings of the seminal "Burning Hell" and "Bottle Up and Go" kept their familiar monikers intact. The full-fledged collaborations shine as both parties unleash some of their finest respective work. While Canned Heat get top bill --

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probably as it was the group's record company that sprung for Hooker 'n Heat -- make no mistake, as Hooker steers the combo with the same gritty and percussive guitar leads that have become his trademark. The epic "Boogie Chillen No. 2" stretches over 11 and a half minutes and is full of the same swagger as the original, with the support of Canned Heat igniting the verses and simmering on the subsequent instrumental breaks with all killer and no filler. The 2002 two-CD pressing by the French Magic Records label is augmented with "It's All Right," with a single edit of "Whiskey and Wimmen." --- Lindsay Planer, Rovi

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