

Howlin Wolf – The Real Folk Blues (1966)

Written by bluesever

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01. Killing Floor - 2:49 02. Louise - 2:42 03. Poor Boy - 2:33 04. Sittin' On Top Of The World - 2:31 05. Nature - 2:46 06. My Country Sugar Mama - 2:34 07. Tail Dragger (Willie Dixon) - 2:56 08. Three Hundred Pounds Of Joy (Willie Dixon) - 3:02 09. Natchez Burning - 2:09 10. Built For Comfort (Willie Dixon) - 2:38 11. Ooh Baby, Hold Me - 2:37 12. Tell Me What I've Done - 2:47 13. Smokestack Lightning - 3:05 14. Hidden Charms (Willie Dixon) - 2:19
- Howlin' Wolf - vocals, guitar, harmonica - Willie Dixon - bass - Buddy Guy - bass - Andrew Palmer - electric bass - Willie Johnson - guitar - Otis Smokey Smothers - guitar - Jody Williams - guitar - Johnny Jones - piano - Hosea Lee Kennard - piano - Lafayette Leake - piano - Junior Blackman - drums - Sam Lay - drums - Earl Phillips - drums - Donald Hawkins - baritone saxophone - J.T. Brown - tenor saxophone - Arnold Rogers - tenor saxophone

This was originally released by Chess in 1966 to capitalize on the then-current folk music boom. The music, however -- a collection of Howlin' Wolf singles from 1956 to 1966 -- is full-blown electric, featuring a nice sampling of Wolf originals with a smattering of Willie Dixon tunes. Some of the man's best middle period work is aboard here; "Killing Floor," "Louise," the hair-raisingly somber "Natchez Burning," and Wolf's version of the old standard "Sitting on Top of the World," which would become his set closer in later years. The Mobile Fidelity version sounds as sonically sharp as anything you've ever heard by this artist and its heftier price tag is somewhat justified by the inclusion of two bonus cuts. But those on a budget who just want the music minus the high-minded audiophile concerns will be happy to note that this is also available as a Chess budget reissue. [Originally released in 1966, the LP was reissued on an import-only Japanese CD in 2004.] --- Cub Koda, Rovi

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