Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King – Show Me The Money (2004)

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01. I Saw It Coming 02. Burnin' To The Ground 03. Mirror. Mirror 04. She Can Smell Another Woman 05. My Heart's In Texas 06. Invitation Only 07. Armadillo Blues (Instrumental) 08. Can't Keep Her Hands Off 09. Stop Messin' With My Mind 10. Crazy World 11. Let's Stop Pretending 12. Tired Of Cryin' Over You Personnel: Smokin' Joe Kubek (acoustic guitar, electric guitar, slide guitar, Hammond b-3 organ, bass guitar); Bnois King (vocals, electric guitar); Anson Funderburgh (electric guitar);

Paul Jenkins (bass guitar);

Ralph Power (drums).

Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King's albums are dependable affairs that stick close to good old barroom Texas blues. The lyrics won't win any Pulitzer Prizes, and while Kubek is an amazing guitar player with a huge tone, he isn't exactly reinventing the instrument, and likewise King, although he is a distinctive and pleasant vocalist, isn't going to be mistaken for Marvin Gaye anytime soon. Not much has changed on their second release on the Blind Pig label, and Show Me the Money delivers another dose of straight-ahead roadhouse blues. If there are any concessions here, it is that all the songs pull in at a radio-friendly length, and at least one, the

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Written by bluesever Thursday, 12 August 2010 17:18 - Last Updated Saturday, 29 June 2013 14:37

infectious "My Heart's in Texas," would fit effortlessly on "new country" play lists. The first two tracks, "I Saw It Coming" and "Burnin' to the Ground," pretty much lead the charge here, and King's easy, subtle singing pairs nicely with Kubek's gutbucket guitar tone, but there are no real surprises waiting in the grass, and certainly nothing that will shake the roots of the music industry -- just solid blues-rock. Somebody's gotta do it, and Kubek and King do it so well.

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