

## Dave Hole - Outside Looking In (2001)

Written by bluesever

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01. Jenny Lee 02. He Knows The Rules [play](#) 03. Outside Looking In 04. You Move Me So  
05. How Long? 06. Nobody [play](#) 07. Blues  
Begins At Home 08. Walk Away 09. Get A Job 10. Insomniac 11. Out Of My Reach 12.  
Living On Borrowed Time

Dave Hole (vocals, guitar); James Hewgill (piano); Bob Patient (keyboards); Roy Daniel (bass); J. Mattes (drums).

Slide-slinging hotshot Dave Hole doesn't stray far from the basics on his sixth album for Alligator, which ought to please his established fans just fine. After all, he's not striving to bring new depth to high-energy blues-rock; he's happy to just keep the fire burning by whipping off biting, energetic riffs that slash and sting with the nimbleness of Duane Allman and the uncut fury of Elmore James, two of his most obvious influences. Although the majority of the album is self-penned, it's easy to hear strains of Rory Gallagher and Johnny Winter in Hole's attack. A few acoustic tracks -- like the languid "Nobody," where the singer sounds a bit like Leon Redbone, and "Get a Job" -- ease the sonic aggressiveness, but not for long. Hole's songwriting won't win him any comparisons to Willie Dixon, but who's going to argue when he plows through a simplistic Bo Diddley beat on "Insomniac" with pile-driving force and a vocal similarity to Eric Clapton, evoking Slowhand's "Willie and the Hand Jive." Even on ballads, like the beautifully languorous "Out of My Reach," Hole tosses in a flame-throwing solo reminiscent of David Lindley's work with Jackson Browne. Covers of B.B. King's "You Move Me So" and Jimmy McCracklin's "He Knows the Rules" become frameworks for Hole's fiery pyrotechnics. He's not changing the world, but with *Outside Looking In*, Dave Hole's just making it a little jumpier. Sure to enliven any party, this is fuel-injected high-quality house-rockin' music that'll blow the roof off any shindig. --- Hal Horowitz, allmusic.com

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