The Nighthawks - Jacks & Kings Vol. I & II (1978)

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01. For You, My Love 02. Come Baby 03. Love Me or Leave Me 04. Dust My Broom 05. (Thank You) Sugar Mama 06. The Sky Is Crying 07. Pinetop's Boogie Woogie 08. Floyd's Guitar Blues 09. Walkin' by Myself 10. Little Queenie 11. Born in Chigago 12. Anna Lee 13. Two Bugs & a Roach 14. Lickin' Gravy 15. Sea Cruise 16. Nervous Breakdown 17. Rockin' the Boogie 18. After Hours 19. Mother-in-Law Blues 20. Gotta Get My Baby Back Personnel: Jimmy Thackery - Guitar, Vocals Mark Wenner - Harmonica, Vocals Jan Zukowski - Bass Pete Ragusa - Drums + Bob Margolin - Guitar Luther 'Guitar Junior' Johnson - Guitar, Vocals Pinetop Perkins - Piano, Vocals Dave Maxwell - Piano, Organ Calvin Jones – Vocals The Rhythm Kings Horns The Phantom Horns

Classic material and stirring playing. A must-find. The Nighthawks were playing with Muddy Waters at the Cellar Door at the time, so they invited his band to come into the studio after hours to record some classic Chicago blues tunes. The result was a classic—a showcase of inspired playing of outstanding blues, titled 'Jacks & Kings.' The band to this day regards this as one of their finest moments, and it became probably their best selling album. In 1979, Adelphi created 'Jacks & Kings, Volume 2: Full House.' This featured some quality, previously unreleased material from 'Side Pocket Shot' and the Jacks & Kings sessions. It was another solid showcase of classic blues mixed with rock and roll, and has been re-released as the combined CD 'Jacks & Kings Volume I & II.'

This CD is a little tough to review in that it is really two albums combined. The first is a classic bar band blues set with backing provided by regulars from the Muddy Waters band. The second veers more toward R&B and rock. The first album is definitely superior but since it is sold at single CD prices, the second album is really just a bonus. One other quibble is that an excellent slow blues number, 'Got A Mind To Travel', was dropped from the original Volume One vinyl and also 'Before You Accuse Me' was dropped from Volume Two. What's left is mostly uptempo good-time blues by a band that loves its work. ---amazon.com

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