

## Lazy Lester - Harp & Soul (1988)

Written by bluesever

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1 *I Done Gone Over It* 2:25 2 *Take Me In Your Arms* 3:32 3 *I'm Your Man* 3:59 4  
*Patrol Wagon Blues* 4:44 5 *Dark End Of The Street* 2:54 6 *Raining In My Heart* 4:08 7  
*Bye Bye Baby* 2:42 8 *Bloodstains On The Wall* 4:23 9 *Alligator Shuffle* 2:45 10 *Five  
Long Years* 3:52 Lazy Lester – harmonica, vocals, Ernie Lancaster, Kenny Neal, Pete  
Carr, Robert "Town Crier" Thomas – guitar Bob Greenlee – bass Lucky Peterson, Teo  
Leyasmeyer – piano Fred Reif – washboard Denny Best, Floyd Miles – drums

In the late 1950s and the first six years of the 1960s, multiinstrumentalist Leslie "Lazy Lester" Johnson helped define the Louisiana "swamp blues" sound of Jay Miller's Excello label. Lester recorded again in the late 1980s, and this set of originals and cover material (hooray for Slim Harpo and James Carr, nix on Bo Diddley and Eddie Boyd) captures all of his distinctiveness: an indolently swinging voice whose tonality belongs to country and western and Cajun music rather than blues, and a plaintive-happy harmonica that suggests Jimmy Reed's without any mimicry. Lester's King Snake sessionmen are ham-handed in their attempts at conjuring peat bog ambience. (35:24/1988) -- - Frank John Hadley 1993, Editorial Reviews

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