

Brownie McGhee - Not Guilty Blues (1996)

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1. *Picking My Tomatoes* - 2:49 2. *Born For Bad Luck* - 2:55 3. *I'm Callin' Daisy* - 2:41 4. *My Barkin' Bulldog Blues* - 2:38 5. *Let Me Tell You 'Bout My Baby* - 2:44 6. *Be Good To Me* - 2:51 7. *Step It Up And Go* - 2:48 8. *Not Guilty Blues* - 2:40 9. *Money Spending Woman* - 2:55 10. *Death Of Blind Boy Fuller* - 2:44 11. *Barbecue Any Old Time* - 2:50 12. *Million Lonesome Women* - 2:37 13. *Workingman's Blues* - 2:50 14. *Dealing With The Devil* - 2:38 15. *Key To My Door* - 2:51 16. *I'm A Black Woman's Man #2* - 2:53 17. *Try Me One More Time* - 3:05 18. *Swing Soldier Swing #2* - 2:43

Brownie McGhee - Guitar, Vocals George "Bull City Red" Washington - Washboard Jordan Webb - Harmonica

Here's an 18-track collection of McGhee's earliest recordings, all of it emanating from sessions held in 1940 and the following year. Brownie's recordings as Blind Boy Fuller #2 are here, as well as the first recordings pairing him with longtime future partner Sonny Terry. His work with washboard player Oh Red and the mysterious Jordan Webb playing harmonica is every bit as effective, though, and tracks like "Picking My Tomatoes" and "Born For Bad Luck" get this set off to a wonderful start; the musical quotient stays high all the way to the end. Everything is pulled off of old, beat-up 78s, and the quality is up and down on every track, but this as fine an early Brownie McGhee set as you'll come across. --- Cub Koda, Rovi

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