Bobby Bland - Touch Of The Blues (1968)

A1 Touch Of The Blues 3:15 A2 Set Me Free 2:33 A3 That Did It 3:38 A4 Road Of Broken Hearted Men 2:25 A5 Sweet Loving 2:35 B1 Driftin' Blues 3:25 B2 Sweet Lips Of Joy 2:35 B3 Sad Feeling 3:10 B4 Shoes 2:37 B5 One Horse Town 2:40 Bobby 'Blue' Bland - vocals Reggie Young - guitar Tommy Cogbill - bass

During his Duke tenure, Bobby "Blue" Bland's rich, creamy voice was at its stark, dramatic peak. Like his other label releases, even when he got overly sentimental or just plain corny material, or the songs were overarranged, Bland's smashing leads made everything work. ---Ron Wynn, allmusic.com

B.B. King was preaching the blues to psychedelic kids at the Fillmore Auditorium; Otis Redding turned them on at the Monterey Pop Festival and made a quantum songwriting leap in the folk-soul majesty of “The Dock of the Bay.” But vocal lion Bobby “Blue” Bland spent his 1967 standing tall and still, belting these 10 tracks of heartache and bedroom triumph as if he’d just turned the calendar page on his ’57 smash “Farther Up the Road” and the ’61 hits “I Pity the Fool” and “Turn On Your Love Light.” There were hints of modernism: the Stax-like gait of “Sweet Loving”; Bland’s heated exchange with a female vocalist in “Sad Feeling,” suggesting the call-response dynamite of Sly and the Family Stone. But the best moments, like the immolation of Charles Brown’s 1945 chestnut “Driftin’ Blues,” were robust purism – the reason why white fans like Eric Clapton and the Grateful Dead adored and covered Bland, doing his crossover work for him. ---rollingstone.com

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