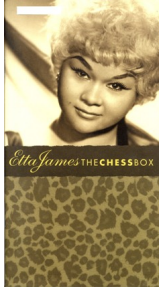


Etta James – Chess Box (2000)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 28 October 2009 10:39 - Last Updated Wednesday, 20 January 2021 15:20

Etta James – Chess Box (2000)



1. *All I Could Do Is Cry*
2. *My Dearest Darling*
3. *If I Can't Have You*
4. *I Just Want To Make Love To You*
5. *Anything To Say You're Mine*
6. *In My Diary*
7. *Spoonful*
8. *A Sunday Kind Of Love*
9. *At Last*
10. *Stormy Weather*
11. *Trust In Me*
12. *Don't Cry Baby*
13. *Fool That I Am*
14. *One For My Baby (And One More For The Road)*
15. *Waiting For Charlie (To Come Home)*
16. *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*
17. *Next Door To The Blues*
18. *I Don't Want It*
19. *Something's Got A Hold On Me*
20. *Stop The Wedding*
21. *These Foolish Things (Remind Me Of You)*
22. *You Got Me Where You Want Me*
23. *I Want To Be Loved (But Only By You)*
24. *Prisoner Of Love*
25. *Pushover*
26. *Be Honest With Me*

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Etta James is one of the towering figures of the blues, the foremost female blues vocalist of the second half of the 20th century, and the foundation of her legacy is her recordings for Chess Records in the '60s. Despite her reputation and enduring popularity, Etta didn't receive a box set retrospective between 1988 and 1990, the time when Chess was honoring such heavyweights as Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Howlin Wolf, Bo Diddley, and Willie Dixon with multi-disc retrospectives. They eased away from box sets during the '90s, only issuing a comprehensive double-disc Little Walter set early in the decade, but they finally returned to the sets in 2000 with a long-overdue Chess Box for Etta James. Like before, when they assembled terrific sets on Berry and Waters, they got it right. Collectors may find a favorite side missing, but the great majority of her best work for Argo, Cadet, and Chess is here. Although there are a handful of unreleased tracks, the point behind this set is to provide a thorough overview of the most pivotal years in James' career, and on that level, it succeeds tremendously. Like many career-spanning sets, it does dip slightly in quality on the last disc, but not enough to make this anything less than an essential addition to a thorough blues library, since even on the lesser material, she sounds terrific. As a matter of fact, it's rather astonishing how strong all these recordings are, from her terrific vocals to the songs themselves. It's a shame it didn't come out with the first round of Chess Boxes, but it was worth the wait. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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