

Koko Taylor - From The Heart Of A Woman (1981)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 31 January 2016 17:04 - Last Updated Friday, 26 March 2021 09:24

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A1 Something Strange Is Going On 4:01 A2 I'd Rather Go Blind 4:57 A3 Keep Your Hands Off Him 3:49 A4 Thanks, But No Thanks 4:14 A5 If You Got A Heartache 3:42 B1 Never Trust A Man 3:18 B2 Sure Had A Wonderful Time Last Night 3:05 B3 Blow Top Blues 4:15 B4 If Walls Could Talk 3:30 B5 It Took A Long Time 3:58 Koko Taylor – vocals
Criss Johnson, Sammy Lawhorn – guitar Bill Heid – keyboards Cornelius Boyson – bass
Vince Chappelle – drums

Another very credible outing, though Taylor's not quite convincing on the jazzily swinging "Sure Had a Wonderful Time Last Night." Far more suited to her raspy growl are her own "It Took a Long Time," a funky "Something Strange Is Going On," and Etta James's moving soul ballad "I'd Rather Go Blind" (beautifully complemented by Criss Johnson's liquidic guitar). ---Bill Dahl, allmusic.com

"From the Heart of a Woman"?! And just look at that cover! What the hell is this? Has the Queen of Blues gone soft? Is this a pop record?

Well, no. This is a bit different from most of Taylor's albums, which are usually straight-ahead blues outings with lots of grit and not a whole lot of finesse, but it is far from a pop record. "From the Heart of a Woman" includes Koko Taylor's magnificent take on Etta James' classic soul ballad "I'd Rather Go Blind", complete with some tremendous, understated lead guitar playing by Criss Johnson, as well as a great, funky "Keep Your Hands Off Him", a swinging "Never Trust A Man", and numerous other highlights.

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And the band is top notch. Harpist Billy Branch lends a hand on two numbers, and pianist Bill Heid contributes mightily to the swinging R&B-groove of songs like "If You Got A Heartache" and "Sure Had A Wonderful Time Last Night", and the two guitarist (Sammy Lawhorn is the other) sizzle on the slow grind of "Thanks, But No Thanks". This is one of the most interesting and musically diverse items in Koko Taylor's catalogue, and fans of her ought to grab a copy right away. Casual soul and R&B-fans should take heed as well. --- Docendo Discimus, amazon.com

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