

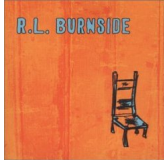
## R.L. Burnside - Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down (2000)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 29 October 2009 20:55 - Last Updated Monday, 17 June 2013 14:28

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### R.L. Burnside - Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down (2000)



01. *Hard Time Killing Floor*
02. *Got Messed Up*
03. *Miss Maybelle*
04. *Wish I Was In Heaven Sitting Down*
05. *Too Many Ups*
06. *Nothin' Man*
07. *See What My Buddy Done*
08. *My Eyes Keep Me In Trouble*
09. *Bad Luck City*
10. *Chain Of Fools*
11. *RL's Story*
12. *Black Matie Robert Belfour*
13. *Pucker Up Buckercup Paul Jones*
14. *Laugh To Keep From Crying Kenny Brown*

Personnel: R.L. Burnside (vocals); John Porter (guitar, mandolin, bass); Smokey Hormel, Rick Holmstrom, Kenny Brown (guitar); Johnny Dyer (harmonica, background vocals); Lynwood Slim (harmonica); Andy Kaulkin (piano, keyboards, synthesizer); Martin Slattery, Tommy Eyre (Wurlitzer piano); Anthony Genn, Jeff Turmes (bass); Steve Mugallian (drums); Richard Flack (programming); I Iki Levy, Brad Cook (loops); DJ Pete B, DJ Swamp (vinyl scratches); Janiva Magness, Billy Valentine (background vocals).

Like jazz, the blues has its share of late bloomers -- artists who didn't start recording or didn't become well-known until they were well into their 50s or 60s. R.L. Burnside is very much a late bloomer; the Mississippi bluesman was born in 1926, but it wasn't until the 1990s that he started to enjoy the publicity he deserved. Recorded in 2000, *Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down* finds the veteran singer continuing to be fairly unpredictable at 73. Essentially, this CD falls into the Mississippi blues category -- Burnside maintains the earthy, down-home rawness that people expect from Mississippi country-blues. But Burnside certainly isn't without urban influences, and this CD illustrates his appreciation of John Lee Hooker and early Muddy Waters as well as the

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Texas blues of Lightnin' Hopkins. Burnside has also been influenced by R&B; one of the few tracks that he didn't write or co-write is a cover of Aretha Franklin's 1960s smash "Chain of Fools." The producers (who include Andy Kaulkin, John Porter, and Brad Cook) try to make that track and others relevant to hip-hop by adding sampling and scratching -- and when they do, it sounds forced and unnatural. Some of the producing is simply too high-tech for an artist as raw as Burnside, but that doesn't make his vocals any less impressive. Despite its imperfections, *Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down* is a generally appealing document of Burnside at 73.

---Alex Henderson, Rovi

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