Sonny Boy Williamson II – Down and Out Blues (1959)

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Don't Start Me To Talkin
I Don't Know
All My Love In Vain
Key
Keep It To Yourself
Dissatisfied
Fattening Frogs For Snakes
Wake Up Baby
Your Funeral & My Trial
99
Cross My Heart
Let Me Explain

Line Up: Fred Below (drums) Willie Dixon (bass) Muddy Waters, Robert Lockwood, Jimmy Rogers (guitar) Sonny Boy Williamson, Rice Miller (harmonica, vocals) Otis Spann (piano)

Retaining photographer Don Bronstein's cover shot of a disheveled bum lying on the sidewalk (some former Chess artist, perhaps?) Sonny Boy Williamson's original 1959 album made it to digital reissue but has now been supplanted by MCA's exhaustive The Essential Sonny Boy Williamson. Still, for a budget price, there are a dozen unforgettable tracks: "Don't Start Me to Talkin'," and his Checker debut; "All My Love in Vain," "Wake Up Baby," "99," "Cross My Heart," "Let Me Explain," and "The Key (To Your Door)." ---Bill Dahl, Rovi

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