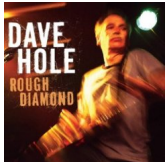


Dave Hole - Rough Diamond (2007)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 16 March 2012 15:19 - Last Updated Sunday, 06 December 2020 09:57

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01. *Rough Diamond Child* 02. *Can't Stop Loving You* 03. *Vintage Wine* 04. *Yours For a Song* 05. *White Trash Girl* 06. *Since I Met You Baby* 07. *I'll Get To You* 08. *Something Inside Of Me* 09. *Rambling On My Mind* [play](#) 10. *Think It Over* [play](#) 11. *I'm a King Bee* Dave Hole (vocals, guitar); Dave Hole; Bob Patient, Bob Patient (keyboards); Roy Daniel (bass instrument); Ric Eastman, Ric Eastman (drums).

After seven house-rocking albums for Alligator, Dave Hole moves to the Blind Pig label--America's other established blues indie--for this solid, if somewhat predictable, release. In certain respects, the journeyman Australian slide guitarist is comparable to stalwarts such as George Thorogood, since his discs are nearly interchangeable yet none disappoint. Both artists also rely heavily on well-chosen covers. The slide demon taps into tracks from obvious inspirations such as Elmore James, Slim Harpo, and Robert Johnson, along with rearranged tunes written by the far less obvious likes of Willy Deville ("White Trash Girl"), Ivory Joe Hunter ("Since I Met You Baby"), and even Buddy Holly ("Think It Over"). But Hole's originals are plenty sturdy, as demonstrated by the opening riff-rocker "Rough Diamond Child" and the atypically tender ballad "Yours for a Song." Still, it's the sizzling solos that drive these tunes, and Hole's scorching tone--something like a mix of James and Rory Gallagher--torches everything it touches. He makes the guitar sing, howl, moan, or cry depending on the mood, but never lets his molten leads overwhelm the songs. The album-closing version of "I'm a King Bee" stings like the titular bug as Hole buzzes and burns through a showcase that shifts from grinding to gentle and back. The no-frills, three-piece backing band provides able accompaniment--that is, they stay out of the way--as Hole's passionate playing proves that the blues can be powerful and potent, even from a continent away. --Hal Horowitz, Editorial Reviews

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