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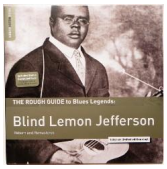
Blind Lemon Jefferson – The Rough Guide To Blues Legends: Blind Lemon Jefferson (2013)



1-1 –Blind Lemon Jefferson One Dime Blues 2:48 1-2 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Easy Rider Blues 2:56 1-3 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Jack O'Diamonds (Take 2) 2:47 1-4 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Match Box Blues 2:54 1-5 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Beggin' Back 2:52 1-6 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Bad Luck Blues 2:51 1-7 –Blind Lemon Jefferson He Arose From The Dead 2:26 1-8 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Rambler Blues 2:48 1-9 –Blind Lemon Jefferson See That My Grave Is Kept Clean 2:53 1-10 –Blind Lemon Jefferson That Crawlin' Baby Blues 2:40 1-11 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Hot Dogs 2:57 1-12 –Blind Lemon Jefferson All I Want Is That Pure Religion 3:13 1-13 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Corinna Blues (Take 2) 3:08 1-14 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Black Snake Moan 3:02 1-15 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Where Shall I Be 2:33 1-16 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Mosquito Moan 3:08 1-17 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Black Horse Blues 2:57 1-18 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Wartime Blues 3:03 1-19 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Rabbit Foot Blues 2:57 1-20 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Rising High Water Blues 2:31 1-21 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Prison Cell Blues 2:48 1-22 –Blind Lemon Jefferson I Want To Be Like Jesus In My Heart 3:05 1-23 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Dry Southern Blues 2:51 1-24 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Blind Lemon's Penitentiary Blues 2:47 1-25 –Blind Lemon Jefferson Broke And Hungry 3:00 + Bonus CD: The Rough Guide To Country Blues Pioneers *2-1 –Big Bill Broonzy Long Tall Mama 2:49 2-2 –Blind Blake He's In The Jailhouse Now 2:47 2-3 –Skip James Hard Time Killin' Floor 2:50 2-4 –Blind Willie Johnson Mother's Children Have A Hard Time 3:23 2-5 –Tommy Johnson Cool Drink Of Water Blues 3:25 2-6 –Frank Stokes I Got Mine 3:06 2-7 –Robert Wilkins That's No Way To Get Along 2:54 2-8 –Blind Willie McTell Southern Can Is Mine 3:14 2-9 –Bukka White District Attorney Blues 2:42 2-10 –Reverend Gary Davis* You Can Go Home 3:08 2-11 –Willie Brown (2) Future Blues 3:01 2-12 –Mississippi John Hurt Nobody's Dirty Business 2:53 2-13 –Furry Lewis Falling Down Blues 2:52 2-14 –Teddy Darby Lawdy Lawdy Worried Blues 3:06 2-15 –Son House Country Farm Blues 2:12 2-16 –Mississippi Sheiks The World Is Going Wrong 3:24 2-17 –Leadbelly Blind Lemon Jefferson (My Friend Blind Lemon)) 3:06 2-18 –Mississippi Bracey Stered Gal 3:11 2-19 –Robert Johnson Preachin' Blues 2:51 2-20 –Charley Patton Some Of These Days I'll Be Gone (Take 2) 3:09 2-21 –Barbecue Bob Atlanta Moan 3:06 2-22 –The Memphis Jug Band* On The Road Again 2:50 2-23 –Memphis Minnie Weary Woman's Blues 2:57 2-24 –Sam Collins My Road Is Rough And Rocky 2:54*

Dubbed the ‘Father of the Texas Blues’, Blind Lemon Jefferson had a mesmerizing guitar-picking style and an impressive vocal range. A true blues legend, his approach influenced the likes of Charley Patton, Robert Johnson and Son House. This Rough Guide presents a lovingly remastered selection of his varied repertoire, from deepest blues to raucous ragtime and God-fearing gospel.

Blind Lemon Jefferson sang his own epitaph throughout this life, a grizzly anecdote that forms the refrain of his most well-known and most-covered song, ‘See That My Grave Is Kept Clean’. Characteristic of his style, the lyrics to the song are laced through with sour notes of irony that are underpinned by his brooding bluesy guitar.

Blind Lemon Jefferson’s life is a riddle of ironies and inconsistencies to the modern-day investigator. Even the extent of his sight impairment is contestable. What can be known for certain is the far-reaching arm of his lasting influence. His style formed the basis of the blues paradigm echoed by the likes of Charley Patton, Furry Lewis and Barbecue Bob. His classic recordings also influenced such legends as Robert Johnson, Son House, B.B. King and Lightnin’ Hopkins. Stretching even further, folk and rock musicians such as Bob Dylan and Carl Perkins later reflected his influence, too.

Jefferson’s songs have varying inspirations: ‘Jack O’Diamonds’ is a Texan folk ballad sung by railroad men gambling in hot and dusty bars, while ‘Corinna Blues’ was inspired by the popular American song ‘See See Rider Blues’, first recorded by Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey in 1924. His songs also give differing impressions of the man: ‘Black Snake Moan’ paints him out as a womanizer, while ‘All I Want Is Pure Religion’ regarded in connection with stories of his refusal to play on a Sunday for any amount, suggests an altogether different image. Marvel at the mystery and drown in Jefferson’s heady bluesy brew on this lovingly remastered Rough Guide.

The bumper bonus album explores the artists that Jefferson inspired. His sound resonated with the likes of Skip James, Leadbelly, Blind Willie McTell and Memphis Minnie, all heard here.
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