John Lee Hooker - Get Back Home (1969)



01. Get Back Home in The USA 02. I Had a Dream Last Night 03. Boogie Children 04. T.B. Is Killing Me 05. Cold Chills 06. Love Affair 07. Little Rain 08. When My First Wife Left Me 09. Big Boss Lady 10. Back to Your Mother play 11. I Wanna Ramble 12. Sittin' Here Thinkin' 13. Hi-Heel Sneakers 14. I'm So Worry Baby 15. I'm Going Upstairs 16. Crazy 'Bout You 17. Boom Boom play

Solo performer: John Lee Hooker (guitar, vocals).

Recorded when Hooker was well into his '60s "comeback," GET BACK HOME features the bluesman in a solo performance (a mode that best reveals the subtleties of his work). The session was recorded in France, and Hooker must have been feeling a bit homesick, as the first song is "Get Back Home In The USA," where he describes in detail, over his trademark boogie rhythm, his return to his homeland and the joy he knows he will feel. After this momentary ray of sunshine, though, things soon return to more familiar climes, with the bleakness of the slow blues "T.B. Is Killing Me" and the unbridled despair of "When My First Wife Left Me." Hooker recorded this tune many times over the years, but this is one of the finest versions, plumbing the depths of shame and regret.

Hooker's raw, biting guitar work is at its best here. Even the umpteenth recording of the Hooker chestnut "Boogie Chillen" is invested with uncommon verve. With the addition of six powerful bonus cuts, GET BACK HOME is both an excellent introduction into the sultry, menacing world of Hooker and a vital addition to the collections of his hardcore fans. ---cduniverse

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Recorded on 11/30/69 in Pau, France by Monestier-Lemay Studio, this 16 track cd on the EVIDENCE label is FANTASTIC solo Hooker!!! Recorded while on a 1969 tour of Europe it is a true document to the enduring legacy of one of the great bluesmen of all time. Contemporary, yet timeless, Hooker's performance captures the authenticity which is the hallmark of his power and gift to the blues. Just Hooker, guitar and that tireless foot keeping the beat: singing, moaning and calling into that primeval darkness which is the veil that shrouds the greatest fears of man yet, also, the penultimate mystery of life. Few are those who have entered that darkness and translated its essence into human language and music. Such a man was Hooker. 'Nuf said! --- Lonnie P. Fredette, amayon.com

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