

BLUES
DONT
LET
ME
DYIN

Hampton



INTRODUCTION

The initial version of this companion piece, which was originally titled *'Blues Dont Let Me Die'*, can be considered Harder's most innovative work, as it saw him for the first time extensively reworking and re-recording previously recorded material to create an expanded listening experience to his *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'* EP. Recording of the material that was to be included on the original version of this companion piece started from May 10 throughout June 28, at his home in Berlin, in several single recording sessions. The project came to live when Harder finished recording the five tracks included on *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'* and spontaneously continued to record alternate versions and additional material for the EP. Satisfied with the outcome, he decided to release the recorded material as a companion piece to the original EP, giving the project overall more depth and versatility. It was intended to be released shortly after *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'* as a digital-only purchase, and was later planned as a special limited edition CD. It initially featured the out coupled and re-recorded song *"Money Don't Matter Tonight"*, which was originally part of the *"Mad Medley"* from *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'*,

as well as an alternate version (the second take) of his unique rendition of Prince's *"I Would Die 4 U"*. Later on, it was to include a rare instrumental version of *"Mad Medley"* simply titled *"Whatever"*, which is now available here on this revised companion to the new 2019 Edit & Remaster of *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'*. The rare *"I Would Die 4 U - Instrumental Mix"*, a remix of the second track from the original EP, was at one point also planned to be included. The initial tracklist also featured a song called *"No Dyin"* (not to be confused with the version included here), which was to be an entirely different alternate recording of *"Done Dyin"*, with more positive lyrics that made a complete emotional turn from the dark original. Although it was intended for inclusion, the song was actually never recorded. The remaining two songs *"Poor Black Mattie"* and *"Have U Ever Loved A Woman"* remained the same as on the original EP, with an extended alternate version of *"Poor Black Mattie"* being added to a purposed tracklist later on, which has actually never been recorded. This issue released here features a revised configuration and has been vastly altered, to properly accompany the newly edited rendition of *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'*, containing the original full-length versions of the second, third, and fourth track from the EP.

This reimagined companion piece features a complete new configuration in comparison to the originally intended version from 2017, presenting the recorded work in carefully overworked and remastered condition, with all songs having been processed, edited and re-mastered to insure that this pivotal release of Harder's previously unreleased catalogue features the best sound quality and listening experience possible.



1. WHATEVER

The first track of the original *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'* EP called *"Mad Medley"* featured the entirely improvised song *"Money Don't Matter Tonight"*, which was separately recorded and worked on days after material for the EP has been recorded. On the initial version of this companion piece, the second take of that separately recorded song, which was recorded on June 7, has been included as the first track. Another alternate version of the song in an entirely different harmony was recorded on June 28, which was the last originally recorded material for the entire *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'* project. The concept and groove of this song stuck to Harder throughout the working process of the EP and its alternate recordings, as he often went back to play the riff in several alternate renditions without vocals. The first version of those instrumental takes that has been recorded is this very track included here, which he simply titled *"Whatever"*. Though being an entirely re-recorded song, Harder plays the same riff in the same harmony again, but fades into an instrumental tryout and improvises on the rhythm and groove.

Now with the entire focus on the guitar, though the original *"Mad Medley"* is already heavily guitar driven, the riff unfolds its depth now entirely and fills the room with a dark and deep atmospheric groove. This particular song was later also included on the original 2017 version of this companion piece to replace the re-recorded and stand-alone *"Money Don't Matter Tonight"*, which Harder lost his favor for, being not satisfied with the outcome of the recordings and his performed vocals.



11. I WOULD DIE 4 U

This version of Harder's unique rendition of Prince's classic "*I Would Die 4 U*" features the fully uncut original recording which was initially included on the original 2017 version of '*Blues Done Let Me Dyin*'. It includes a fifty-second instrumental part at the end of the song which was later sampled by Harder himself for his rare "Instrumental Mix" of the track. This mix consists of a slowed down loop from the instrumental portion of this track overdubbed with 3 additional guitar tracks that have been recorded separately. That unique "remix" was at one point included on an alternate configuration of this companion piece back in 2017, and later on the last proposed configuration for the original '*Blues Done Let Me Dyin*' as the 7th track in 2018. The metallic side noises that have been produced accidentally occur throughout the track, most prominently appearing in the instrumental portion and giving the song its unique sound and atmosphere.



III. POOR BLACK MATTIE

This uncut version of Harder's special rendition of R.L. Burnside's classic '*Poor Black Mattie*', adds one minute from the original recording to the song, where Harder mainly goes into little instrumental tryouts, altering the rhythm and intensity of the high paced riff. Other than additional guitar parts and omitted cuts and edits, this version is the same as the one included on '*Blues Done Let Me Dyin*', now fully showcasing Harder's playful approach to one of his most performed and recorded songs.

IV. HAVE U EVER LOVED A WOMAN

This song, originally recorded by Freddie King, is another regular cover Harder played on his live shows and recorded several times, and is here included in its original full four-and-a-half minutes. Adding two minutes to the version included on *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'*, the previously omitted one-minute intro solo is now included here, as well as the solo at the end, along with the omission of several minor edits to provide the entire full version of this recording. The song as it is included here, was intended for release on the original 2017 version of *'Blues Done Let Me Dyin'*, and spotlights Harder's most playful and experimental guitar playing ever, improvising and going into solo tryouts as much as on no other recording known by him. The loose and free guitar playing showcases his willingness to work on his guitar skills and improve on his versatility, which is here in its very early stages, as it is still pretty raw and not always on point.

V. NO DYIN

On the original 2017 version of this companion piece, a track with the same name as the one included here was to be featured, being an entirely re-recorded alternate version of the original EP's "*Done Dyin*". It was to feature different lyrics that had a more positive approach, turning the old lyrics of "blues done let me dyin", into seeking for mercy and "asking" the blues to "not let me die", which was also adapted for the title of the original 2017 version '*Blues Dont Let Me Die*'. This version included here is an alternate edit from the original full-length recording of "*Done Dyin*" which omits most vocals performed. The absence of any lyrics makes up the name of this track, as it simply does not feature "no dyin".



Recorded May 9 & 10, 2017 at Harder's Home Studio in Berlin, Germany

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