

Hound Dog (1956)

Elvis Presley

LISTEN FOR

- Elements of R&B (12-bar blues, polished urban blues vocal quality)
- Elements of country (guitar solos, fills)
- Mainstream pop (choral backup for instrumental solos)
- Driving rhythm
- Bowdlerized lyrics play up Presley's tough-guy image, downplay sexual innuendo

CREATION

Songwriters Jerry Leiber (lyrics), Mike Stoller (music)

Label, Record RCA 47-6004

Musicians Elvis Presley (guitar, lead vocal), Scotty Moore (guitar), Bill Black (bass), D. J. Fontana (drums), Shorty Long (piano), The Jordanaires (backup vocals)

Producer Steve Sholes

Recording RCA Studios (New York City); July 1956; mono

Charts Pop 1, R&B 1

MUSIC

Genre Rockabilly

Form Simple verse-chorus (12-bar blues)

Key C major

Meter 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Chorus (12)	"You ain't nothin'"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Layered rhythmic patterns<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Driving eighth notes in guitar○ Heavy snare backbeat○ Repetitive bass pattern○ Energetic hand-clapping

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid-fire snare fill marks end of choruses
0:17	Verse (12)	"When they said"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polished urban blues vocal quality • Rapid-fire snare fill and 1 bar of stop time mark ends of verses
0:33	Chorus (12)	"You ain't nothin'"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country-style guitar fills (0:40)
0:50	Instr. Verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guitar solo with backup vocals.
1:06	Verse (12)	"When they said"	
1:23	Instr. Verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guitar solo with backup vocals.
1:38	Verse (12)	"When they said"	
1:55	Chorus (12)	"You ain't nothin'"	

LYRICS

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

When they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
Yeah, they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
Yeah, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

When they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
Yeah, they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

When they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
You know, they said, you was high classed
Well, that was just a lie
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
You ain't no friend of mine

SOURCES

- <http://www.songlyrics.com/elvis-presley/hound-dog-lyrics/>