

Jan Bradley - Mama Didn't Lie

(Curtis Mayfield, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., BMI) Recorded December, 1962
Jan Bradley (vocal); Curtis Mayfield (guitar); Freddy Young (bass); remainder unknown
Originally Formal single 1044/also Chess single 1845

Addie "Jan" Bradley was born in Byhalia, Mississippi on July 6, 1943 and was raised in Illinois. Her recording career, which began in 1961, was slow to get moving until she was assigned to Curtis Mayfield of the Impressions, who was beginning to write and produce for other artists. Mayfield recalled to Bob Pruter, "She was a very cute young lady, and she had—sometimes it's not how well you sing, it's just that innocence or that certain something about the artist that makes a song appealing. Jan had that innocence in her voice." The sound of "Mama Didn't Lie" was carefully crafted to contrast Bradley's light soprano with the heavy bass line laid down by Freddy Young. Recorded for the Formal label, it was picked up by Chess in December, 1962 and became a major Pop and R&B hit. When Mayfield left the picture, Bradley was unable to field a strong follow-up, and she retired from the business in 1969. She eventually finished college and became a social worker.

CHESSE WAS ABLE to revitalize its waning sales of blues records in 1962 by arranging for distribution in Europe. The ready availability of Chicago blues on record created thousands of new fans in the United Kingdom and on the Continent and sparked the formation of dozens of white blues/rock bands. In early 1963, the Chess brothers purchased an anemic AM radio station in Chicago and renamed it WVON. Staffed by dynamic disc jockeys and playing nothing but R&B and Soul, the station quickly dominated the black listening market.

Jan Bradley ■

Cookie & His Cupcakes - Got You On My Mind

(Joe Thomas-Howard Biggs, Shelby Singleton Music Inc./Angle Music, BMI)
Recorded Lake Charles, Louisiana, circa January, 1963
Cookie (Huey Thierry) (vocal-tenor sax); Shelton Dunaway (alto sax-vocal); Sidney Reynaud (tenor sax); Ernest Jacobs (piano); Marshall Laday (guitar); Joe Landry (bass); Sokol Richardson (drums)
Originally Lyric single 1004/also Chess single 1858

Huey "Cookie" Thierry was born in Jennings, Louisiana in 1936 and formed his first band, the Boogie Ramblers, in 1954. As the Cupcakes, the band became one of the Deep South's favorite show bands. Most of their material was put on wax by the famed Eddie Shuler, whose Goldband Records operation was responsible for the smash hit "Sea Of Love" by Phil Phillips. Chess picked up the master of "Got You On My Mind" after local sales action on Shuler's Lyric label. On this rocking reprise of the 1952 hit by Big John Greer, Cookie and sax man Shelton Dunaway did the vocals and the tough sax section included Sidney "Hotrod" Reynaud. The band continued to play to delighted audiences far into the 1970's, primarily in East Texas.



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