

STACKS

A monthly review of newly acquired records in my collection

Issue #1

October 2023

GREEN DAY

DOOKIE 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOXSET



What else is there to say other than holy shit?

This is a monumental celebration of Green Day's debut album, Dookie and comes with Six LPS! The original album, demos, outtakes, the live at Woodstock album, and the live in Barcelona album exclusive to this set. Not to mention all the goodies included (Actual shit bags for your dog, only Green Day would include something so insane.)

Not only is the pressing of the original album stellar, but the alternate versions of songs we know so well really stand out here. You get the Dookie tracks many times over, the 4-track demo of Basket Case really surprised me, and the cassette demo of Haushinka (a song that would be found later on Nimrod) has a solo that feels like the precursor to Walking Contradiction.

Boxsets like these are always a treasure as they provide an audible evolution of bands and music that end up as the soundtrack to our lives. I also have the Nimrod 25 boxset which was my favorite for a while. I think this tops that, (though Nimrod is still my favorite Green Day album)

On top of that, we have a possible release date for Green Day's 14th Album! (See theamericandreamiskillingme.com) Green Day fans are eating GOOD.

dookie

ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST RECORDING

Based on the amazing album by Alanis Morissette, this musical focuses on many the same themes of the original album with emphasis on pain, healing, and finding oneself.

Unfortunately by the time I got into this recording, the tour had come and gone in Chicago. The way the harmonies are written for this show are stellar, managing to emulate Morissette's rather characteristic way of singing. Her voice feels extremely present in the way the cast sings here. (Goes without saying, since she wrote the songs.)

The overture is one of my favorites from modern musicals. The way Morissette's songs weave in and out of each other is just something I haven't quite heard elsewhere, let alone with what could be considered a jukebox musical. (It is a jukebox musical, but I also feel like it isn't? It's a jukebox musical in the same way that *American Idiot* is a jukebox musical, they feel more like rock operas.)

Stellar standouts from the cast recording include: Unprodigal Daughter, All I Really Want, and You Oughta Know.



MARC WITH A C

PLEASE BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, ALRIGHT?

What can I say about Marc with a C that I haven't said many, many, many times over?

Please Believe in Yourself, Alright? is the third album in "Phase II" of his career, and also the second in a trilogy of albums that started with Thanatophobia. Marc has been teasing that Phase II, Album Four is already done. So it's only a matter of time until it's in our hands.

But we're here to talk about PBIYA?

What an amazing album. In some ways, it feels a lot more cynical than Thanatophobia but manages to still have the MWAC charm and humor he's known for (peep the track titled "Dogs")

Sound wise, it's right in line with Thanatophobia.

Songs like "Fake and You Know it" and "You Do You" are likely to get the most playtime outside of the scope of the album. That being said, what I'd call "sound experiments" much like that were on Thanatophobia are found here. But seemingly in a smaller scope.

Where in Thanatophobia you'd get the "sound experiments" as the intro or outro to certain songs, and on a larger scale the whole second CD meant to be listened to at the same time as the album, are here but in a smaller scale. "Male Manipulator Music" is the best example I could say. It has the same vibe as those parts of Thanatophobia but extended to an entire song. But it is just as effective and great to listen to.

Please Believe in Yourself, Alright? officially releases on November 17th, but Marc with his love of all things analog, released the prototype vinyl pressings early and is as of right now, the only way to own the whole album. Some songs have been released on Bandcamp and have music videos on Youtube.



"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC

IN 3-D

By now, Weird Al Yankovic is a household name.

In 3-D was Weird Al's debut album, and has many songs that are classics today.

Parody songs like "I Lost on Jeopardy" (a parody of "Jeopardy" by Greg Kihn Band) really stand out, but the big stand out here are the original songs by Weird Al, especially the most famous one, "Eat It".

Before Michael Jackson released a parody by the name of "Beat It" (What the fuck is that song even about? Gang violence?!) Al released a little song called "Eat It". Al does not give two shits if you're a picky eater. He will get you an egg and beat it, and make sure that the egg does not go to waste as he forces it down your throat.

And let's be honest, with a song like "Eat It" erradicating picky eaters every where, of course a cheap knock off by Jackson would never reach the heights of what is quite possibly the most important contribution to the world of music.

Weird Al knows you don't want to eat it. But he'll make damn sure that you will.

Before we go to the next album, let me leave you with some parting words of wisdom from the great bard, Yankovic.

"Have some more yogurt, have some more Spam
It doesn't matter if it's fresh or canned
Just eat it"



FRANK TURNER

ENGLAND KEEP MY BONES

I had the opportunity to see Frank Turner live at Riot Fest recently. (And crowd surf the concert, no less) Not only is Frank Turner amazing in concert, but he's just as amazing in a recorded form.

My first experience with Frank Turner was through Guitar Hero Live, an ill-fated attempt at rebooting the Guitar Hero franchise. Frank Turner's song "I Still Believe" was featured in the GHTV section of the game.

Frank Turner's brand of folk punk is quite unique to other artists I listen to, like Mischief Brew or Flogging Molly. While they tend to have similar subject matter (Fuck landlords, solidarity for the union!) His music is a lot more earthy, rooted in the acoustic sound.

Not to say that as an artist he hasn't stepped outside the genre's borders. He's made a hardcore punk album after all.

I picked up my copy at Riot Fest as The Cure was performing. We had stayed all night day one for Foo Fighters and were not too keen of the leaving crowds that would be present with The Cure. I also picked up the NOFX/Frank Turner split record (half off cos the jacket had a little water damage from the rain Sunday morning). Whenever Frank Turner is involved, you are going to have some fun.

This I still believe.



***This Month:
Weird Al!
The Dookie 25th Anniversary Boxset!
Marc With a C's newest album!
Frank Turner!
Jagged Little Pill! (The Musical!)***

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